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Japan

Watanabe Proposes Early Trip To Meet Clinton

OW2711144292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1423 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Friday Japan's top diplomat should visit the United States before President-elect Bill Clinton takes office on January 20.

Speaking at a session of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, Watanabe said, "Although I am not sure whether I will go, I think the foreign minister who represents Japan should go before (Clinton's) inauguration."

Watanabe was apparently referring to an expected reshuffling of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet in December.

"Japan wants to avoid being placed in a dilemma between the United States and China," Watanabe said, in reference to speculation Clinton may take a tough stand toward China over its human rights record.

He suggested the first two weeks of January as an appropriate timing for a foreign ministerial visit, saying, "I would like to recommend a time by which key figures (of the new U.S. administration) will have been selected."

He also told the same session Japan has not yet decided whether to invite Russian President Boris Yeltsin for talks with leaders of the world's seven major economic powers at their Tokyo summit in July.

"Japan has to solve the issue before the summit as (Yeltsin) canceled his visit due to his country's domestic circumstances," Watanabe said.

Yeltsin was originally scheduled to come to Tokyo in mid-September but abruptly postponed the trip indefinitely reportedly over Japan's insistent claim for the return of four Russian-held islands to its north.

"Japan will decide whether or not to invite (Yeltsin) in connection with the issue," he said.

Watanabe also expressed support for a proposal by U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who has called for a UN Rapid Deployment Force to deal with emergency security crises, avoiding the time-consuming UN endorsement process.

"I believe it will become desirable to defend the world's peace and security that may be called the 'world's police force' on the principle of putting emphasis on the UN role," he said.

U.S. Auto Body's Expulsion of Foreigners Noted

OW2611105192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0907 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japanese automobile industry leaders expressed concern Thursday [26 November] over a U.S. counterpart's decision to shut out foreign firms from its membership.

An executive at a major Japanese automaker said the move may be a sign the "Big Three" U.S. carmakers are uniting to indulge in "Japanese car bashing."

Officials of the U.S. Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association said Wednesday it has decided to exclusively represent the Big Three and told other member firms to leave the group, including Honda of America Mfg. Inc.

A top association official told KYODO NEWS SERVICE the move is intended to give the organization more influence over areas such as the U.S. legislative process.

Since the U.S. presidential election, concerns have prevailed in Japan that President-elect Bill Clinton will hammer out a protectionist economic policy before entering the White House in January.

An executive of another Japanese automaker said the association's decision has made it extremely difficult to "predict the strategy against Japan by both the government and the private sector."

A Honda Motor Co. spokesman said the company has accepted its expulsion without strong protest because it has nothing to lose. He said the prime purpose of taking the membership is to "cooperate in rebuilding the U.S. automobile industry."

An official at the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said, "It's a natural current globally for manufacturing subsidiaries to join local associations," suggesting that the U.S. move may attract international criticism.

U.S. Envoy Urges Acceptance of Tariffication

OW2611055592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0544 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost said Thursday that Tokyo should accept tariffication in order to facilitate a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks by the end of the year.

He said Japan should make the move now that the United States and the European Community (EC) have resolved their differences on farm subsidies which had stalled the global trade talks being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"Recent progress in resolving the U.S.-EC differences over agriculture has opened the door for a conclusion of this round by the end of the year," Armacost said in an address to a symposium at the United Nations University headquarters.

"This poses both a challenge and an opportunity for the Japanese Government, and we think a forthright decision to accept tariffication as a principle without exceptions would contribute to the success of this round," Armacost said.

Japan, which argues it must ban rice imports to safeguard self-sufficiency in its staple food, is among half a dozen countries opposing a GATT-proposed draft accord which suggests conversion of import barriers to tariffs.

But Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato hinted Wednesday Japan is "ready to compromise when necessary."

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe also said in the Diet Wednesday that Japan may have to take a "realistic approach" on the issue since there is "no contending against heavy odds in multilateral talks."

Armacost said Japan's acceptance of tariffication would not only smooth conclusion of the GATT round, but "would help avert bilateral problems between us" and open the door to further expansion of Japan's global trade.

Armacost also said if the massive bilateral trade imbalance in Japan's favor is to be arrested, Japan should take additional market opening steps and implement policies to prompt its domestic demand to grow substantially faster than its gross national product (GNP).

At the same time, he acknowledged, the U.S. must take "a more purposeful action" to reduce its federal deficit and to address competitiveness problems.

Armacost recognized views now circulating to the effect that Washington and Tokyo may gradually fall out over Japan's insistence Russia agree to return four northern islands before it offers Moscow large-scale assistance to help consolidate President Boris Yeltsin's reforms.

He cited anxieties that American desires to support Yeltsin's reform efforts "might stimulate pressures for additional Japanese aid to Moscow before the northern territories issues is resolved."

The envoy also noted concerns that a tougher U.S. stance on human rights under the next administration of President-elect Bill Clinton might stall U.S.-China relations at a time when Tokyo-Beijing relations are improving.

"Managing adjustments in our respective relations with Russia and China will require very close consultations," he said.

He denied speculation that the U.S. could "retreat from Asia" under Clinton, saying U.S. trade and security interests are firmly anchored in the region.

"The Clinton administration...may adjust somewhat the contours of our Asian policy, to be sure, but the links between America and Asia are surely destined to grow," Armacost said.

Foreign Minister Suggests 'Concession' on Rice

OW2711112792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1107 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe suggested Friday Japan may make a concession at the Uruguay Round of world trade talks on opening its rice market.

"The question is whether we can win acceptance by vigorously stating that we will not allow in a single grain of rice. There are ways to (concede) while opposing comprehensive tariffication," Watanabe told a news conference.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato at a later news conference denied that Watanabe has strayed from an agreement to reject the lifting of Japan's de facto ban on rice imports reached among key cabinet members earlier in the day.

Watanabe told the reporters that Japan intends to continue seeking modification of the proposal for total tariffication submitted by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The negotiations are being conducted under the auspices of GATT.

At a meeting of ministers concerned with economic matters, Foreign Minister Watanabe, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu and 13 other ministers reaffirmed Japan's position to seek a conclusion to the Uruguay Round by year-end.

Japan has so far remained steadfast in seeking an exclusion for rice under the proposal to replace all import curbs with tariffs, currently under consideration by the 108 countries which are party to the global trade talks.

The proposal would allow tariffs to initially be set at a very high level, in effect limiting imports, but Japanese farmers have expressed concern that such measures would be easily swept away in the future.

Pressure is mounting on Japan to concede on its all-but-total ban on rice imports following a weekend agreement on agricultural subsidies struck by the United States and the European Community.

Finance Minister Comments on Rice Ban, Banking

OW2711031392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0252 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata indicated Friday that Japan will continue to assert its need to keep banning rice imports.

"We will actively seek international understanding for the difficult problems that Japan faces," he told a regular news conference.

He was apparently referring to growing expectations that a fresh attempt will be made to conclude the long-stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks by the year-end, following the breakthrough in U.S.-EC farm trade negotiations last weekend.

Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which is overseeing the trade round, is reported to have said in Geneva that it will be extremely difficult to treat rice as an exception to the proposed comprehensive tariffication—the replacement of import curbs with tariffs.

Japan argues that the ban is necessary because it wants to maintain self-sufficiency in rice, its staple food, for reasons of food security.

Turning to the reports made by domestic banks Thursday showing sharp falls in profits in the six months ended September 30, Hata said the figures showed the effects of liquidating nonperforming loans and asset deflation.

He said he is confident, however, that the industry is capable of overcoming the difficulties, brushing aside fears of instability in the nation's financial system.

The 11 top commercial banks reported their aggregate pretax profits for the period, the first half of fiscal 1992, plunged 37 percent from the same period the year before, largely due to building up of loan-loss reserves and as they deducted stock evaluation losses from their interim profits.

Hata also argued that there seems to be a strong perception overseas that Japan's market is more closed than it really is.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released a report Thursday calling for a further liberation [as received] of the Japanese market.

Hata said Japan is effectively the largest importer of agricultural goods in the world and ought to make further efforts to explain itself to get rid of various misconceptions.

Cabinet To Discuss Uruguay Round Strategy

OW2611060092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0549 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Key cabinet members are to meet Friday [27 November] to discuss Japan's strategy for world trade talks, which were given a boost by a weekend farm trade settlement by the United States and the European Community (EC), the government spokesman said Thursday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said the discussions on the Uruguay Round trade talks would be joined by 15 cabinet members, including Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe; Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu; and Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe.

A senior government source said Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is also likely to attend the session.

The cabinet members are expected to reconfirm Japan's bid to seek an exception for rice from a plan calling for tariffication of trade barriers, proposed by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Japan has vowed to adhere to its policy of virtually banning rice imports, but earlier this week several cabinet ministers suggested a compromise may be considered to bring the Uruguay Round of GATT talks to a successful conclusion.

The special cabinet meeting is timed to convene shortly after Dunkel offers a timetable for the trade talks at a Thursday meeting of the GATT trade negotiations committee in Geneva.

Reaffirms Resolve To Maintain Rice Ban

OW2711025392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0239 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Key cabinet members confirmed Friday that Japan will continue to reject the lifting of a ban on rice imports that would be required under a proposal in the Uruguay Round of world trade talks to replace import curbs with tariffs.

Agriculture Minister Masami Tanabu, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe, and 12 other ministers reaffirmed Japan's position after negotiators from the 108 participating countries agreed in Geneva on Thursday to work toward a conclusion of the round by the year-end.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata told reporters that Japan will continue seeking support from other countries for its position on excluding rice from the comprehensive tariffication proposal.

Tanabu may visit Washington and the European Community (EC) to discuss Japan's position on rice, government sources said.

Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which is overseeing the talks, has insisted that making Japanese rice an exception would ruin the talks.

Japan has come under increasing pressure to concede on its rice import ban in the wake of a farm agreement last weekend between the United States and the EC.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told reporters the ministers agreed that Japan should press its views in each area covered by the talks, but did not specify farm talks in particular.

Kato reiterated that Japan intends to make its utmost efforts to bring the stalled talks to a successful conclusion.

Tokyo To Uphold Rice Import Stance to GATT

OW2711015092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0133 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Japan will continue arguing the need to keep its ban on rice imports in multilateral trade liberalization talks, despite mounting pressure to lift it, government officials said Friday.

A senior official at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries said trade negotiators meeting in Geneva are expected to confirm their intention to revitalize the stalled Uruguay Round talks and conclude them by the year-end.

He said Japan now feels itself under strong pressure to make a political decision to open its rice market.

The official said Jiro Shiwaku, vice farm minister for international affairs, who is going to Geneva this weekend, will continue to press the Japanese stance and try to have rice excluded from proposed tariffication—the replacement of import barriers with tariffs.

Minoru Endo, Japan's ambassador to international organizations in Geneva, said Thursday that the difficulties that Japan finds in the draft final agreement must be resolved in the process ahead.

He made the comment after a panel of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which is overseeing the trade round, said it will renew its efforts to conclude the talks.

Other government officials said they expect the resumed discussions on the trade round to start with an evaluation of the recent agreement between the United States and the European Community (EC) on farm trade issues, including a cut by the EC in subsidies and production of oilseeds.

Many of them expect that despite some disagreements, GATT participating countries will generally support the U.S.-EC accord.

Syrian Foreign Minister Al-Shar' Pays Visit

Hopes Clinton To Be 'Honest Broker'

OW2611091892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0840 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Syria hopes U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton will abide by his campaign pledge to be an "honest broker" in the Middle East peace process, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said here Thursday, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

Al-Shar' made the remarks in separate meetings with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, in which he also called for increased Japanese infrastructure assistance and private investment, officials said.

They said Miyazawa extended an invitation for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to visit Japan.

Al-Shar', who arrived Tuesday [24 November] on a four-day official visit, replied that al-Asad should be able to realize the visit when the volatile Middle East situation calms down.

Queried by Miyazawa and Watanabe about his outlook for the peace process in the wake of the U.S. presidential election, al-Shar' was quoted as replying that Syria regrets the departure of President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, who had actively engaged in the process.

But he said Bush and Baker have laid strong foundations for the Clinton administration to build on if it choses to do so.

Officials said al-Shar' told Miyazawa that while Syria is "not pessimistic" about Clinton's approach, it is watching closely to see if he will uphold his commitment to maintaining the momentum set by his predecessors and his pledges to be an "honest broker."

"He cannot be an honest broker if he is overly biased in favor of Israel," he was quoted as telling Watanabe.

Al-Shar' asked Miyazawa to take up the Middle East as a subject in his future talks with Clinton. He said Japan's help is also desired to press Israel to agree to a withdrawal from the Golan Heights captured in the 1967 Six-Day War and annexed in 1981.

Israel has implicitly offered to discuss handing back a "territorial dimension," or at least part of the Golan Heights, in return for a bilateral peace settlement. Syria, however, demands a total withdrawal.

Al-Shar' was quoted as criticizing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's allusions to a possible Israeli withdrawal "on" as opposed to "from" the Golan Heights, as well as the Israeli leader's remarks that there should be a national referendum on the issue.

Rabin, for his part, reproached al-Shar' in a recent interview for calling for a "total withdrawal for a total peace" without clarifying whether a bilateral peace is conditional upon a comprehensive peace, which from Damascus's perspective would entail an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip in addition to Syria's Golan Heights.

This is al-Shar's third visit to Japan. He was here previously in 1985 and 1988. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has been invited to visit Tokyo in December.

Meets Emperor, Prime Minister

JN2611102092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, 26 Nov (SANA)—Japan's Emperor Akihito this morning received [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who conveyed to the emperor greetings from President Hafiz al-Asad and best wishes to the friendly people of Japan. The emperor asked the foreign minister to convey his greetings and best wishes to the president.

During the meeting, friendly conversation was exchanged on relations of friendship between Syria and Japan and their recent and old history. The emperor wished Syria success in achieving peace in the region. The meeting was attended by the head of Imperial Protocol and the Syrian ambassador in Tokyo.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa also received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Mr. Ohawa, director of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Middle East and Africa Department; the Japanese ambassador in Damascus; and the Syrian ambassador in Tokyo attended.

Discussions during the meeting focused on the situation in the region, developments in the peace process, and the prospects for the forthcoming round of bilateral talks in Washington. The meeting also dealt with relations between Syria and Japan and means to improve and expand them in all fields.

The Japanese prime minister voiced his high appreciation of the role played by Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad in the peace process and in the achievement of security and stability in the region. He also asked al-Shar' to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian people.

Sees Mideast Role for Tokyo

OW2611110592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japan can play an important role in the Middle East peace process and a major political role in the international community, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said Thursday [26 November].

Al-Shar', who is on a four-day visit to Japan, also expressed support for Japan's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council.

Japan, "being a major international economic power," can contribute to the peace process because of its "long-standing position of full support for peace, security, and stability in the Middle East and the world," Al-Shar' said at a press conference at the National Press Club.

Al-Shar' said economic power has become more important in the post-cold war era than military power, and noted that the Middle East has two-thirds of oil reserve in the world.

"When a major power expresses interest or concern on Middle East stability, this is not merely a political orientation but economical."

Al-Shar' said all the member nations of the Non-Aligned Movement, which held its summit conference in Jakarta this summer, wanted some kind of restructuring of the U.N. to make it more democratic and reflect opinions.

"I think Japan, like a number of other countries, has a role in restructuring the U.N. and participating in the decision-making of the U.N. Security Council," he said.

The Syrian foreign minister, who arrived in Japan on Tuesday, said that in meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and his Japanese counterpart Michio Watanabe, he talked about the peace process in the Middle East and what has been achieved so far.

He described the talks with the Japanese leaders as "positive, fruitful, and encouraging."

Turning to the United States, al-Shar' said he hopes the next administration of Democratic President-elect Bill Clinton would continue to support the peace process in the Middle East.

Al-Shar' is paying his third visit to Japan, following visits in 1985 and 1988.

Damascus Reports Talks, News Conference

JN2611183092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] An official round of talks was held at the Japanese Foreign Ministry between the Syrian side, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Japanese side, led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe. [passage omitted]

Talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of expanding cooperation in various sectors between the two friendly countries. Views were exchanged on a number of issues, topped by the situation in the region, developments in peace process, and future prospects of Washington bilateral talks.

Following the talks, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held a news conference at the Press Club in Tokyo, attended by Japanese, Arab, and international media representatives, as well as the Arab ambassadors to Japan.

The foreign minister described the talks he held with Japanese officials as constructive, fruitful, and encouraging. He said the talks dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the peace process, and bilateral relations and ways of developing them.

Al-Shar' stressed the importance of the role that Japan can play, as a great economic power, in the peace process which will contribute to peace, security, and stability in the region.

The correspondents' questions, which the foreign minister answered, concentrated on the peace process and the position which the administration of President-elect Clinton may take toward the peace process, the role which Japan can play in the peace process, and Syria's role in removing any obstacle facing relations between any Arab country and Iran.

Answering the questions, the minister stressed the just and comprehensive solution and implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on all fronts, and Resolution 425 on southern Lebanon.

Hong Kong Governor Holds Talks With Officials

Concerned About China-U.S. Trade Ties

OW2611061892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0603 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten expressed concern Thursday that a U.S. decision to revoke China's preferential trade privileges would also hurt Hong Kong, a Foreign Ministry official said.

They urged U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton to consider the possible side effects of such a move when he draws up his policy toward China, the official said.

Clinton has promised to address America's 16 billion dollar trade deficit with China and to link improvements in Beijing's human rights record with its status as a most-favored nation trading partner.

Patten, who arrived Wednesday as a guest of the Foreign Ministry, gave a detailed explanation of his plans to introduce democratic reforms and said he hoped to continue discussing them with China, the official said.

The guiding principle in proceeding with democratization plans is that they should reflect the views of the people of Hong Kong, Patten was quoted as saying.

China has strongly rejected Patten's plan to expand elections by 1995 and has charged that it undermines an accord with Britain on the 1997 return of the colony to Chinese rule.

Patten said he was not seeking support from Japan or other countries for his proposal since it is a bilateral issue between Britain and China, according to the official.

But the governor said he hoped Tokyo would continue to cooperate in ensuring Hong Kong's continued prosperity after 1997, the official said.

Miyazawa said he "fully understands" the proposed reforms. He did not express an opinion, the official said.

So far Australia and Canada, both members of the British Commonwealth, are the only two countries to voice support for Patten's democratic reforms.

Miyazawa noted that Japan and Hong Kong have close economic relations and said Tokyo regards Hong Kong as a very important partner, the official said.

Patten replied that he was optimistic about the future of economic relations with China, the official said.

Patten will meet with other key cabinet ministers, Japanese parliamentarians and business leaders before returning to Hong Kong Saturday.

To Press Clinton on PRC's Trade Status

OW2711103992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0955 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Hong Kong Gov. Chris Patten said Friday he will strongly urge the administration of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton not to "politicize trade" by withdrawing or limiting China's privileged trade status.

Patten said he will file the request during a visit to Washington anticipated for early next year.

"It is always, in my judgment, wrong to try to politicize trade," Patten told reporters at the Japan National Press Club. "Free trade is the best way of continuing to promote the economic development and opening up of China."

The governor, who arrived Wednesday on a four-day visit, said if the United States were to revoke or qualify China's most-favored- nation (MFN) trade status, the impact on Hong Kong in terms of diminished growth and loss of jobs would be major.

"I don't want people in Hong Kong to suffer because of political arguments between others and that is a point that I will put extremely vigorously," he said.

Patten said he would include business and community leaders in his delegation so they could impress on the Clinton administration the need to consider the adverse effects on Hong Kong of a change in U.S. trade policy toward China.

Clinton has indicated he will link the MFN issue to improvements in China's human rights record and its 16 billion dollar trade surplus when he draws up his China policy.

President George Bush have vetoed several attempts by Congress to link the two issues.

In a speech earlier Friday to Japanese and Hong Kong business leaders, Patten predicted that if China loses MFN status, Hong Kong's growth could be cut by 2.5 percent, while 60,000 jobs could be lost.

"Less quantifiably, but just as important, that legendary business confidence in Hong Kong could be knocked," he said, underlining the need for "more dialogue and more trade, not disengagement and less trade."

China and the U.S. are Hong Kong's two largest trading partners. In 1991, over two-thirds of China's U.S.-bound exports and almost a third of the United States' China-bound exports passed through Hong Kong.

Patten said that not only Hong Kong, but economically vibrant southern China, which produces over half the country's exports to the U.S., would be hurt by Sino-American trade friction.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa shared Patten's concerns on China- U.S. relations under Clinton during their 45 minutes of talks Thursday, Foreign Ministry officials said

Patten noted that Japan is Hong Kong's third largest trading partner and the largest source of foreign investment in its manufacturing sector.

Hong Kong is Japan's fifth most important export market in terms of value, while more than 600 billion yen worth of Japanese goods were exported to China through Hong Kong in 1991.

Seeks Investment Protection Pact

OW2711073592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten called for talks on conclusion of an investment protection pact with Japan in talks Thursday with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

Officials said Patten called for the talks to ensure Hong Kong's continued attractiveness for Japanese investment after the British colony is returned to Chinese control in 1997.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said Watanabe told Patten that Japan is anxious to conclude an agreement which will encourage Japanese investment in Hong Kong.

Another ministry official, however, said Watanabe merely promised to "actively consider" Patten's proposal.

Hanabusa told a group of foreign correspondents that an investment protection pact "is obviously in the interest of both the Japanese and Hong Kong peoples, as well as the Chinese."

Asked if any concrete time frame is being considered, the spokesman said, "Well, the sooner the better, of course." He added that agreements concluded between Japan and Hong Kong will probably remain valid after 1997.

Cumulative Japanese investment in Hong Kong through last March amounted to 10.8 billion U.S. dollars, far outstripping the 3.4 billion dollars in Japanese investment in China, according to Japanese figures.

Official Sees Benefits From Russian Hard-Liners

OW2711041192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0348 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Japan may benefit from a strengthening of hard-line conservatives in Russia, a senior government official suggested Friday.

"Sometimes there are examples where the hard-liners are easier to negotiate with," the official said, remarking on the sidelining this week of two of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's pro-reform aides.

"There is no need to be pessimistic about the territorial dispute," added the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said the conservatives are "more capable negotiators" and none are opposed to a resolution to the long-standing dispute over four islands off Hokkaido.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference that Japan is watching Russia's internal political developments with interest, but he declined to comment on how they might affect bilateral relations.

Japan says the territorial dispute over Etororu, Kunashiri, Shikotan islands and the Habomais group of islets must be resolved prior to extending full-scale financial assistance to Russia.

The islands were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Acting Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said Thursday that personnel changes would not dash efforts to introduce economic reforms.

Tokyo Approves Pact on Russian Science Center

OW2711011392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0050 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—The Japanese Government gave its approval Friday to the signing of an agreement on opening an international science and technology center in Russia.

The agreement, aimed at preventing an exodus of former Soviet nuclear scientists and engineers to potentially hostile countries, follows recent talks among Japan, the United States, the European Community (EC), and Russia.

The Japanese Cabinet approved the signing of the agreement, to take place in Moscow later Friday, after being briefed by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, officials said.

They said the agreement calls for Japan to provide 20 million dollars for the center and the U.S. and EC 25 million dollars each. Russia will provide the premises and facilities.

Former Foreign Minister To Attend Laos Funeral

OW2611114992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0800 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—Former Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will represent Japan at the state memorial service for the late Laotian leader Kaysone Phomvihan scheduled for Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

Kaysone died last Saturday of an illness at the age of 71.

Kaysone headed the ruling Lao People's Revoltionary Party from 1955 and was prime minister from 1975 until August 1991, when he assumed the title of president.

Takeshita Gives Diet Testimony on Sagawa Affair

Denies Seeking Mobster's Help

OW2611015392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0141 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said Thursday he had not sought help from the boss of a major crime syndicate to stop a harassment campaign against him by a rightist group in 1987, when he was seeking the presidency of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Takeshita said he had not known of the approach made by Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., to Susumu Ishii, the late leader of the Inagawa-kai crime syndicate, to stop the harassment by the small right-wing group Nihon Kominto.

Takeshita, testifying as a sworn witness at a session of the House of Representatives' Budget Committee, said Watanabe was "one of many well-intentioned third parties."

Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, a now-defunct trucking firm, is at the center of a scandal involving illegal political donations.

Takeshita, who became prime minister by virtue of winning the LDP presidency, denied any involvement of a mobster in his taking power, saying, "I received a solemn nomination from (LDP) President Nakasone. The Kominto case was irrelevant to the LDP presidential election."

Takeshita said he has no intention of quitting parliament.

The former prime minister said there was no connection between his visit to the home of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, his mentor, on November 6, 1987 and the ending of the harassment campaign.

Watanabe told prosecutors that Torao Inamoto, the late leader of Nihon Kominto, demanded that Takeshita visit Tanaka's home as a condition to stop its harassment.

Watanabe said in a deposition that he urged Ishii to mediate and Ishii conveyed to him the condition set by Inamoto, and relayed that later to Takeshita.

The rightist group was critical of Takeshita for what it regarded as his disloyalty in splitting the LDP largest faction, led by Tanaka.

'Highlights' of Testimony Reported

OW2611054592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0519 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The following are highlights of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's testimony in the Diet on Thursday [26 November]:

—Although there is an allegation that I called on Inagawa-kai leader Ishii to stop the street campaign by Nihon Kominto, I have no knowledge of such action.

—I regard (former Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin president) Watanabe, who voluntarily participated in stopping the campaign, as one of many well-intentioned third parties.

—I did not know that Watanabe had called for Ishii's mediation (to stop the harassment campaign).

—I knew after October 1988 that Ishii had intervened in the case.

—I was asked on the night of November 5, 1987 by Watanabe to visit (former Prime Minister Kakuei) Tanaka's home to pay my respects for my filing for the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party. As I had previously had such an intention, I visited Tanaka's home the next day through the good offices of (House of Councillors member) Shin Hasegawa.

—I had no awareness that I had fulfilled a condition to stop the street campaign by visiting Tanaka's home.

—I have no idea why the street campaigns were conducted. I never had anything to be afraid of.

—If I quit, it will be taken to prove that there really was a link between the Kominto case and the unconnected election of a party president and, especially, the nomination of prime minister. Therefore, I will not quit.

—I want to dispel misunderstanding that Japan's prime minister was elected by the intervention of a gangster.

—I did not discuss the question of loan guarantees to Inagawa-kai in a meeting with Rekiji Kobari, chairman of Fukushima Kotsu Bus Company, in June last year.

Ministers Comment on Testimony

OW2711060392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0548 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Defense Agency chief Sohei Miyashita Friday indirectly urged former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to give up his Diet seat if future investigations find he was linked to mobsters.

"I would like to believe in his categorical denial of connections with organized crime," Miyashita said of Takeshita's testimony during a Thursday Diet session.

Takeshita told the House of Representatives' Budget Committee he did not ask Susumu Ishii, the late leader of an underworld syndicate, for mediation in ending a rightist group's street campaign that aimed to thwart Takeshita's attempt to gain the presidency of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Miyashita told reporters, "It would affect the foundation of democracy, if rightists or mobsters intervened in elections of the party president and prime minister."

Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda said he does not think Takeshita's testimony has dispelled suspicion among the nation that a gangster was involved in the formation of the Takeshita administration.

"Although it is true that (Takeshita) himself did not know of (mobsters' involvement), I don't think yesterday's testimony dispelled people's distrust and anger that he consequently allowed (gangster's) intervention," he said.

Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo said Takeshita, "trying his best," had answered the legislators' questioning and that the answers were "earnest and respectful."

Home Affairs Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said he considered it a valuable lesson in democracy.

The director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, Junzo Iwasaki, said Takeshita sufficiently clarified his factual relationships by clearly announcing whom he met and where.

LDP Member Accuses Takeshita of Perjury

OW2711092092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0844 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Masaru Urata, a ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] member of the House of Councillors, criticized former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Friday of making false testimony in the Diet in connection with a memo allegedly written by Takeshita.

Takeshita testified under oath at the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives Thursday on his alleged involvement in the money-and-mobster Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

Asked about the memo allegedly written by Takeshita before the 1987 LDP presidential election, Takeshita told the committee he had not written the memo, adding, "The handwriting is far better than mine."

Urata said he saw Takeshita write the memo at a Japanese restaurant in Tokyo in late September 1987 just before the LDP presidential election was officially proclaimed on October 8.

According to Urata, Tatsuo Ozawa and Hajime Ishii, both LDP lower house members, and the late upper house member Shin Hasegawa were also present at the signing of the memo.

In the alleged memo, Takeshita promised to protect former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, Takeshita's political mentor and the founder of the LDP's largest faction at the time.

Takeshita formed a study group called Sosei-kai in February 1985 in the Tanaka faction and formed his own faction named Keisei-kai in July 1987, splitting the Tanaka faction.

With the creation of Keisei-kai, the Tanaka faction was divided into three groups—one led by Takeshita, another headed by Susumu Nikaido loyal to Tanaka, and the other declaring a neutral stance.

Tanaka, who was arrested in July 1976 for allegedly taking 500 million yen in bribes from a U.S. aircraft maker, lost his political influence after he suffered from cerebral infarction in 1985.

At the time Takeshita allegedly wrote the memo promising his support for Tanaka, Takeshita badly needed endorsement from former Tanaka faction members to win the election.

In October 1987, Takeshita was named as LDP president and thus became the prime minister due to the LDP majority in the Diet.

Urata said he will prove in public whether the memo was truly written by Takeshita or not.

Asked about Urata's allegation, Takeshita's office refrained from making any comments.

If Takeshita's perjury on the memo is proved, the former prime minister would face three months to 10 years in prison under the Diet Testimony Law.

In a deposition revealed to the court early this month, Urata was named as one of the LDP politicians who had asked a rightist organization before the 1987 LDP presidential election to stop a harassment campaign against Takeshita. Urata acknowledged the contact with the group.

Opposition Comments on Testimony

OW2611135192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Opposition parties said Thursday they may accuse former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita of committing perjury during his sworn testimony in the Diet.

Takashi Yonezawa, secretary general of the Democratic Socialist Party, told reporters Takeshita must be summoned to the Diet to testify again.

"We must scrutinize whether there were problems related to the Diet Testimony Law. If we find problems, we may accuse him (of perjury)," Yanezawa said.

Shogo Abe, secretary general of the United Social Democratic Party, said in a statement there is strong suspicion Takeshita gave false testimony and demanded the former prime minister resign from the Diet. Abe said his party also plans to accuse Takeshita of the crime.

Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the largest opposition Social Democratic Party, criticized Takeshita "for assuming a defiant attitude."

Speaking in front of Shibuya station in Tokyo, Tanabe said that in refusing to resign, Takeshita "is ignoring the voice of the people."

He said his party will continue to press Takeshita to quit.

Kanemaru Reportedly Admits Link With Gangster

OW2711154192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1509 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, former don of Japanese politics, Friday acknowledged his links with a gangland boss in successfully halting a 1987 right-wing group's smear campaign against Noboru Takeshita which helped him reach the premiership.

Referring to a December 23, 1987, meeting with Susumu Ishii, the late leader of the Inagawa-kai crime syndicate, Kanemaru said he thanked the mobster for his efforts to silence the anti-Takeshita campaign, opposition parliamentarians quoted Kanemaru as saying.

"It is my political philosophy to have some kind of appreciaion for a person who saves a drowning child in a river even if the person happens to belong to a crime syndicate," he reportedly explained.

Kanemaru, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), made the remarks during sworn testimony at the Odawara Municipal Hospital in Kanagawa Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, on his alleged role in a major money-and-mobsters scandal threatening to engulf the entire party.

The 78-year-old Kanemaru gave the sworn statement to a team of inquisitors from the House of Representatives Budget Committee at his bedside in the hospital, where he is recovering from eye surgery.

Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of the scandal-plagued Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., had told prosecutors that Kanemaru called on him in September 1987 to ask Ishii to suppress the harassment of Takeshita by the right-wing group Nihon Kominto (Emperor's Subjects Party of Japan).

Takeshita, at the time vying for the LDP presidency, which carries with it the premiership, allegedly visited the home of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka as a condition set by Kominto and relayed through Ishii in order to halt the harassment campaign.

In his testimony, however, Kanemaru reportedly said he first learned of the involvement of the mob group December 23, 1987, in a meeting with Ishii and Watanabe at a Japanese restaurant in Tokyo.

The former LDP heavyweight was also quoted as saying he does not remember anything about a meeting at a Tokyo hotel October 5 the same year because he was drunk at the time.

Watanabe said in his affidavit that Kanemaru, Takeshita, Ichiro Ozawa, a former LDP secretary general and a Kanemaru protege, and Watanabe met in a hotel room that day and decided on Takeshita's visit to the home of Tanaka, Takeshita's political mentor, in a bid to satisfy the Kominto's demand.

As for the ultimate distribution of the illicit 500 million yen political donation he confessed to receiving from Watanabe in January 1990, Kanemaru reportedly said he has no recollection of it.

It has been alleged that he distributed the money to about 60 LDP politicians before the February 1990 general election.

Kanemaru bluntly proposed that his secretary, Masahisa Haibara, who directly received the money from Watanabe, be questioned on the matter.

On the reason for Watanabe's largesse, Kanemaru reportedly said Watanabe was to some extent seeking to use him, because the businessman was then on the brink of being indicted for aggravated breach of trust.

Watanabe is being held on charges of abusing his position as president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin and bringing major losses to his firm through the extension of massive amounts of unsecured loans.

Kanemaru was also quoted as saying he would like to return the money to Watanabe even though he would have to borrow from other sources.

After the two-hour bedside questioning, Osamu Takatori, chairman of the lower house budget committee, told reporters the details of the sworn testimony will be publicized at Saturday's committee meeting.

Asked if there were any discrepancies between Kanemaru's testimony and that given by Takeshita in the Diet, Takatori said he could not confirm anything at the moment.

Takeshita appeared before the Diet on Thursday to testify under oath on his alleged ties with the gang boss in relation to his successful bid for the LDP presidency, which automatically brings with it the prime ministership due to the LDP's dominance in the Diet.

He denied he knew Ishii was instrumental in squashing the rightist group's campaign using loudspeaker vans to blare abuse.

Watanabe, former president of the now-defunct express parcel delivery firm at the center of the scandal, refused to answer almost all questions directed at him by Diet inquisitors in another sworn testimony session Thursday at the Tokyo detention house.

Watanabe, who is now on trial on the breach of trust charges, has been detained in the facility since February.

Kanemaru quit the Diet in October due to an outburst of public outrage for his receipt of the 500 million yen donation, which violated the political funds control law limiting political funds politicians can accept from a single source in a year to 1.5 million yen.

The opposition camp will strive to re-summon Takeshita to testify before the House of Councillors on deepening suspicions of his alleged links with mobsters, opposition sources said.

In addition to unravelling the truth of the scandal, the opposition hopes to drive Takeshita into abandoning his Diet seat by way of taking responsibility for his assumption of office in 1987 whether or not he knew about the gang group's involvement in silencing the right-wing campaign against him, they said.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told reporters in front of his private residence that he has heard nothing about Kanemaru's sworn testimony admitting ties with mobsters.

Former Sagawa Head Refuses To Answer in Testimony

OW2611114492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. parcel delivery firm, who is at the center of a money scandal, refused to answer almost all the questions asked by parliamentarians during his testimony.

Watanabe, who is being detained at the Tokyo detention house during his trial on charges of aggravated breach of trust for causing massive losses to the firm, refused to reply to questions, saying they were related to his trial, according to Osamu Takatori, chairman of the House of Representatives' budget committee.

Takatori told reporters seven members of the committee visited Watanabe at the detention house to question him as a sworn witness.

The seven members questioned Watanabe for two hours behind closed doors about a 500 million yen donation to former governing party powerbroker Shin Kanemaru, and an alleged mobster's involvement in stopping harassment by a right-wing group of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Takatori said.

Takatori said there were few conclusions to be drawn from Watanabe's testimony and there was no progress in the search for the truth of the case. "It was very regrettable," he said.

Prosecutors arrested Watanabe on February 14 and have indicted him on charges of aggravated breach of trust for causing 95.2 billion yen worth of damage to the company by issuing loans and loan guarantees totaling 527.8 billion yen to 58 firms and 26 individuals, some of them connected with organized crime.

Watanabe said he had met Kanemaru about 10 times and Takeshita three or four times, according to opposition party members of the committee. He also admitted he had met Torao Inamoto, the late leader of the rightist group Nihon Kominto, which conducted a smear campaign against Takeshita in 1987 when he was seeking the presidency of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Watanabe told prosecutors in his deposition that he requested help from Susumu Ishii, the late leader of Japan's second largest crime syndicate, the Inagawa-kai, to stop the harassment of Takeshita by Nihon Kominto upon request from Kanemaru.

Watanabe's testimony, which followed Takeshita's testimony as a sworn witness at the Diet, was taken after the supreme court turned down an appeal by him against a lower court decision allowing a Diet panel to question him.

Toshihise Matsuura, of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party, criticized Watanabe and his lawyer for their refusal to testify on what was confirmed at the testimony of Takeshita.

He also said he urged Takatori to "scrutinize" whether Watanabe's testimony violated the Diet testimony law, saying, "it is necessary to give due consideration to refusal to testify without justifiable reasons."

Kansei Nakano of the Democratic Socialist Party also hinted at accusing Watanabe of perjury under the law.

Komeito Threatens To Demand Cabinet Resignation

OW2611035992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0324 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida told his party convention Thursday that he will demand the resignation of the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa if he remains passive toward resolving the latest money politics scandal.

Ishida told party members that the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal cannot be concluded with just the resignation of Shin Kanemaru from the Diet seat, and criticized Miyazawa for not trying more actively to bring the facts of the scandal to light.

The scandal, which highlights the influence of big money in Japanese politics, has strengthened calls for political reforms.

Ishida warned Thursday, "If I judge the prime minister is continuing his unenthusiastic attitude in leadership in bringing about political reforms, I will demand the resignation of the cabinet."

The head of the centrist opposition party also blasted the influence of an underworld syndicate on the election of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's president as "unbecoming of a democratic nation" and the "biggest disgrace in the history of Japanese politics."

Ishida also expressed confidence in the party's policy of being one leg of a political triangle involving the LDP, the Social Democratic Party, and the middle-of-the-road parties.

He also called on his party to consider ways to form a "new political axis" that will overcome partisan politics in the realignment of the political world.

Cabinet Adopts White Paper on Nuclear Safety

OW2711042392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0358 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—The cabinet approved a white paper on nuclear safety on Friday, touting in an extra chapter the safety guarantees for the nuclear fuel cycle and underlining the achievements of security inspections.

Kanzo Tanigawa, director general of the Science and Technology Agency, presented the document, officials said.

The white paper, drawn up by the Nuclear Safety Commission, an advisory body to the agency, is the first to have such a special chapter on safety guarantees for the nuclear fuel cycle and the achievements of security inspections, the officials said.

Japan, which does not have reprocessing facilities to extract plutonium from spent nuclear fuel, plans to establish its own full- scale reprocessing cycle.

Referring to the controversial shipment of highly toxic plutonium from France to Japan, the white paper says that safety checks have been based on the principle that the human body should not be exposed to radiation.

"Security is fully guaranteed, as severe criteria have been applied to the (plutonium) casks and the ship is difficult to sink or set on fire," the paper says.

It also stresses that none of the nuclear accidents reported in Japan so far have resulted in health damage caused by radiation that could be confirmed by doctors.

The paper, however, acknowledges that any misgivings about the use of plutonium must be "cleared away."

Supplementary Budget 'Likely' To Clear Panel

OW2711064292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0625 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—The supplementary budget, which features much of a 10.7 trillion yen economic pump-priming package announced in late August, is likely to clear the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, Diet sources said Friday.

At Friday's meeting of directors of the lower house Budget Committee, the ruling and opposition parties agreed to take a vote on the government-proposed supplementary budget plan at the panel Tuesday after hearing an interim report Monday on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal from Justice Minister Takashi Tawara.

The supplementary budget would then be immediately sent to a plenary session of the lower house for approval.

North Korea

Korean War Veterans' Monument in U.S. Criticized

SK2611133792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 26 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today comments on the ground-breaking ceremony of a "monument to war" held in Los Angeles by "veteran soldiers" who participated in the Korean war of aggression.

With nothing can the United States conceal the blood-stained criminal history and realise its ambition for domination all over Korea, says the news analyst, and continues:

Lurking behind the burlesque is a sinister intention to distort the history of the war of aggression in Korea and conceal the criminal nature of the war and incite hostile feelings and the idea of overseas aggression among American youths and soldiers.

The U.S. imperialists unleashed the war against the Korean people, brutally killed millions of defenceless people and reduced towns and villages to ashes by mobilizing large armed forces and uptodate weapons of mass destruction.

Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists are praising those mercenaries who died a dog's death while committing aggression, looting and massacre, with such flowery words as "consolation" and "bravery" and even staging a queer burlesque of "commemoration" and "memorial service."

What draws particular attention is that their moves to incite anti-communist confrontation among the American youths and people is timed to coincide with their war rackets against the DPRK.

They recently staged adventurous "Hwarang" and "Eagle 92" war exercises with the South Korean military fascists and plan to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers, a large-scale nuclear war rehearsal.

This is a grave matter that can never be overlooked.

The United States must draw a lesson from its disgraceful defeat at the Korean war of aggression, discard its ambition for domination all over Korea and withdraw from South Korea, taking along all its aggression forces and lethal weapons.

U.S. Urged To Stop Erecting Monument

SK2511214592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1148 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Kim Kyong-pok commentary: "Act Attempting To Embellish the Crime of Aggressive War Against Korea"]

[Text] Some 500 U.S. veterans, who participated in the aggressive war against Korea, recently held in Los Angles a ground-breaking ceremony for a monument in memory of the Korean war. The so-called monument, which will cost some $4 million, will be completed by next year.

Our people, who heard this news, cannot repress their indignation. As it has been known, the aggressive war against Korea was recorded in history as an indelible, great crime which the U.S. imperialists committed against and before our people. The U.S. imperialists, who provoked the 25 June aggressive war after having made a scrupulous preparation to absorb the entire Korea into their own realm and realize their ambition to dominate Asia and the world, perpetrated an unprecedented war crime in history and all kinds of brutal atrocities by resorting to the most barbarous war methods and means.

The crime committed by the U.S. imperialists, who brutally slaughtered our innocent people, indiscriminately bombed and reduced into ashes peaceful cities and rural area villages, and even used without hesitation bacteriological and chemical weapons prohibited by the international law, far surpasses those of the Nazis in hellishness and cruelty. Nevertheless, they did not make any apology for this war crime and instead are even erecting a monument to embellish and praise it. This is really an absurd act. This is a provocative act against our people, who still remember vividly the U.S. imperialists' war atrocities, and an insulting act against the people's conscience.

From the standpoint of the fact that the U.S. imperialists suffered a shameful military, political, and moral defeat in the Korean war for the first time in history, they cannot justify their maneuver for building the monument. Mark Clark, defeated general, who signed the Korean Armistice Agreement, said that he was the first U.S. Armed Forces commander in history who did not win a victory, and deplored that his and the great American destiny was reduced to a worn-out felt hat.

Chief of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Bradley confessed that the Korean war was a wrong war because the United States waged the war at a wrong time, in the wrong place, and against a wrong enemy. If the U.S. veterans who participated in the ground-breaking ceremony had discretion and had been aware of the shame of defeat which made the myth of the U.S. imperialists' powerfulness broken into pieces, they would not have dared to erect the monument.

Of course, such a reckless act speaks for the will of the U.S. ruling circles that keep pursuing its anachronistic policy of strength while forgetting a lesson of history and justifying the past war crime. When we consider this in relation to the fact that even today when the structure of the Cold War collapsed and a new phase toward reconciliation and peace on the Korean peninsula is opened, the United States is artificially creating tension and strengthening war maneuvers, this is all the more clear.

While babbling about misgivings about our nonexistent nuclear weapons development, the U.S. imperialists recently decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which is a preliminary war to invade the North and a nuclear test war, and to move, in case of emergency, the flexible deterrence option forces with a main stress on Air Force and Naval Force and deploy it in South Korea. The U.S. military authorities' chieftains said that the most dangerous area with a high probability of limited warfare following the Persian Gulf area is the Korean peninsula and prepared a 120-day war scenario supposing a nuclear war. This is not a secret any more.

Under these circumstances, the U.S. imperialists are building the monument to embellish the memory of their past war. We cannot but regard this as part of an ideological and psychological offensive to create a provocative atmosphere of another new Korean war already accepted as a fait accompli. Time has gone by and the situation has greatly changed. However, the U.S. imperialists' aggressive true color and ambition remain the same.

The monument which the U.S. stupid guys plan to construct will only serve as a symbol of a corpse accusing the U.S. imperialists' of their war crimes—as an evidence of showing their unchangeable aggressive ambition.

The United States should stop playing with the construction of the war monument, change its confrontation policy based on the strength in conformity with the demand of the times, and keep its hands off the aggression against Korea and interference in Korean affairs.

Cuban 'Victory' Over U.S. Sanctions Reported

SK2711052892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 27 (KCNA)—As was reported, a resolution demanding an end to the U.S. economic, trade and financial blockade against Cuba was passed by an overwhelming majority of approval at the U.N. General Assembly on November 24.

The fact that this resolution raised directly by the Cuban Government has won approval of an overwhelming majority clearly shows that the revolutionary cause of the Cuban people aspiring after socialism enjoys full support and encouragement of broad peoples in the world, and it signifies one more great victory won by the heroic Cuban people in the struggle to smash the anti-Cuban blockade of the U.S. imperialists.

In other words, this event in the United Nations tells that the more than 30 years of illegal and unjustifiable blockade policy of the U.S. imperialists aimed at destroying the Cuban revolution and stifling the revolutionary Cuban people is running into strong protests of the world's progressive people and that the notorious "Torricelli act" framed up recently at U.S. Congress to further strengthen the brigandish blockade policy was declared bankrupt before human conscience.

Comrade Fidel Castro said "the key to victory lies in resistance," speaking at the recent 12th regular session of the 3rd National Assembly of people's power of Cuba. True to his words, the Cuban people, under the leadership of the Communist Party and their leader, have resisted and resisted for the past scores of years and creditably defended their motherland and the revolutionary cause of socialism, smashing all the moves of aggression and challenge of the U.S. imperialists and reactionary forces.

The victory of the Cuban people in the U.N. arena, too, is a product of their staunch spirit of resistance.

The Korean people pay homage to the indomitable fighting spirit of the fraternal Cuban people and express firm militant solidarity to their just struggle.

The cause of struggle of the world people for socialism is invincible and no force on earth can hold in check the progress of the people toward socialism.

The Korean people standing on the same front with the Cuban people will actively support the just struggle of the Cuban people in any adversity and advance shoulder to shoulder with the brothers of Cuba for ever in the struggle for the socialist cause.

Daily Calls Japan's Plutonium Shipment 'Criminal'

SK2611051592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 26 Nov 92

["Nuclear Design Cannot Be Concealed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on Japan's design to become a nuclear power.

Recalling that Japan has a plan to import 30 tons of plutonium from Europe in the future and that the Japanese authorities including the chief cabinet secretary are now at pains to justify it, the news analyst says: This openly revealed the intention to realise the design to become a nuclear power in the guise of "peace" and it is a challenge to the desire of the world progressive people for peace.

Japan has long harboured the nuclear design and made a nuclear-warhead-launching system already in the 1967-71 period.

Its plan to ship from other countries and stockpile plutonium more than necessary was motivated by its intention to manufacture nuclear weapons any time.

Japan is trying to become a political power commensurate with an economic power and, further, become a military power to seek world supremacy in the military field, too. The transport of large quantities of plutonium is to serve this criminal purpose.

For the sake of world peace and security, Japan's criminal transport of plutonium should not be allowed, the analyst stresses.

SRV President Replies to Kim Il-song's Message

SK2611053092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 21 Nov 92

["Reply message" from Le Duc Anh, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, to President Kim Il-song on 17 November—read by announcer]

[Text] To Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK, Pyongyang:

I express my sincere thanks to you for your excellent congratulations extended to me in connection with my election as president of Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

I wish you good health and great success in your lofty works.

Le Duc Anh
President of SRV
17 November 1992
Hanoi

Yi Chong-ok Heads Delegation for Kaysone Funeral

SK2711114592 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1043 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 27 (KCNA)—A party and government delegation led by Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president of the DPRK left here today by air to attend the funeral of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Kim Yongnam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, Vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister; Chang Chol, Vice-premier of the Administration Council; Chi Chang-ik, secretary of the Central People's Committee; and other personages concerned.

Minister councillor of the Chinese Embassy here Chiang Zhengcai was on hand.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to New Lao Leadership

Greets President

SK2711055092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0441 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang Nov. 27 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Thursday sent a message of greetings to Nouhak Phoumsavan upon his election as president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. President Kim Il-song wholeheartedly wishes the Lao president great success in his responsible work for the independent development and prosperity of the country as well as good health and happiness. He expresses the belief that the traditional friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples will grow stronger and develop in the future.

Greets Party Leader

SK2711060192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0439 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang Nov. 27 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on November 26 sent a message of greetings to Khamtai Siphandon on his election as president of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

Expressing the belief that the traditional friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and peoples will continue to develop on good terms in the future, the message wishes the president success in his responsible work for the strengthening and development of his party and for the prosperity of his country.

KYODO Reports Alleged Public Execution Held

OW2611065592 Tokyo KYODO in English
0638 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Beijing, Nov. 26 KYODO—Foreign students in North Korea witnessed the gruesome public execution earlier this month of a man accused of committing political and other crimes, an expert on North Korean affairs said Thursday.

The account is the first confirmed report of a public execution in North Korea.

The execution took place in a suburb of Hamhung city on the east coast of North Korea, said the foreign expert who recently returned from Pyongyang.

He said a group of Asian students watched the execution after reading street posters announcing the event.

The notices did not reveal the man's name or alleged crimes, the students were quoted as saying.

The students were quoted as saying that at the execution scene they saw a young, intelligent-looking man who was accused of "believing in bourgeois ideology," army desertion, and the murder of two relatives.

The condemned man stood silent, shaking his head all the while before his mouth was gagged with a cloth and three soldiers each fired five shots at close range, they said.

His corpse was then shoved in a sack and driven away in a truck. A large crowd, which included many children with their parents, reacted quietly and with approval, the students said.

The foreign nationals were able to witness the execution because of their Asian appearance, the expert said.

In May 1991, a visiting Amnesty International human rights delegation was informed by North Korean officials that the death penalty is used sparingly and normally for cases involving espionage or sabotage.

But North Korean classmates told the Asian students that such executions are a "common event."

Diplomatic sources in Pyongyang said the public execution of "hostile elements" is used by the totalitarian regime of President Kim Il-song to intimidate North Korean citizens.

South Denounced for 'Seeking Permanent Division'

SK2711052392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0424 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 27 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities are pursuing a permanent division with dependence on foreign forces.

The South Korean chief executive in a telephone message with the U.S. president-elect on November 13 pressed home the "necessity" of a "continued role" of the U.S. forces in East Asia and prattled that they must be present continually in South Korea. Talking to the Japanese prime minister on November 8, he also stressed the "necessity" of the presence of U.S. forces in South Korea.

He told reporters last April that the U.S. forces must remain in South Korea even after the reunification.

The South Korean authorities who are working hard to block the road of reunification at the point of the bayonet of foreign forces are translating their words into deeds.

Steps to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a test nuclear war against the DPRK, next year and to ensure that the United States continue to offer a "nuclear umbrella" to the South Korean authorities were taken at the South Korea-U.S. military committee and "annual security consultative meeting" in October.

Then the South Korean authorities staged the largest "Eagle 92" joint field exercises ever known in history in a vast area of South Korea in November with the U.S. imperialists.

Earlier, in October, a measure was taken to set up the South Korea-U.S. combined marine command under the "South Korea-U.S. combined command" and in November the South Korean authorities committed such a treachery as deliberating on and passing a "bill endorsing" the South Korea-U.S. "wartime support agreement" at the "National Assembly".

Facts show that the road to reunification cannot be paved unless the moves of the anti-national elements of South Korea seeking a permanent division with dependence on outside forces are contained.

Seoul Nordpolitik Called 'Sleepwalker's Gibberish'

SK2711021492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] According to a broadcast from Seoul, No Tae-u, speaking at a government-sponsored event at the Chongwadae on 24 November, raved that the external obstacle to reunification has been removed by the promotion of nordpolitik. This is like a sleepwalker's gibberish.

The division of the Korean peninsula was brought about by the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialist aggression forces, and the reunification of the Korean peninsula has not been realized yet because the U.S. imperialist aggression forces have been stationed in South Korea for nearly half a century. This is clear even to a mere child.

As for the nordpolitik which the highest person in authority in South Korea babbled that day, it is an antireunification policy seeking the two-Koreas plot, as everyone admits. If this antireunification policy has been pushed ahead under the condition where the U.S. forces are still occupying South Korea, it is quite natural that it has brought about results hampering reunification all the more.

'Upsurge in Production' in National Economy Noted

SK2711112292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 27 (KCNA)—A great upsurge in production is being effected in different branches of the national economy in Korea.

According to data available, coal mines in South Pyongan Province this year have produced 1,842,000 more tons of coal than the same period last year, taking the province as a whole. During the period, they built 15,000 more metres of capital pits and 17,000 more metres of preparatory pits than the previous results.

Transport workers under the Ministry of Railways, entering this month, increased the transport of fertilizers more than 15 percent on a daily average as against the corresponding period last year.

45 railway stations under the General Bureau of Western Railways have already overfulfilled their yearly transport assignments.

Working people under the Chagang Provincial General Bureau of Forestry this year felled 10,000 more cubic metres of trees and carried 43,000 more cubic metres than last year and increased the timber production by over 20,000 cubic metres.

Besides, the Haeju smeltery, the Sinuiju glass factory, the Nampo shipbuilding complex and many other units considerably augmented production this month.

South Korea

Envoy to U.S. in Seoul for Consultations

SK2611033992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0313 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Talks will flourish to establish collective security arrangement in the Asia-Pacific region under new U.S. administration, Hyon Hong-chu, South Korean ambassador to Washington, predicted Thursday.

"Aides close to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton have frequently emphasized the need for regional security cooperation," Hyon said, "we are likely to see more interest and negotiations on the issue from now on."

Hyon arrived Wednesday for a six-day visit to Seoul for briefing President No Tae-u and other government leaders on the Clinton administration and prospects of future Seoul-Washington relations.

He denied possibility of U.S. pressure for South Korean rice market opening outside of Uruguay Round negotiations or of increased trade friction under Clinton.

On North Korea's nuclear capability, the ambassador said not everyone agrees the capability was overly rated.

Hyon recalled President No's proposal at his 1988 U.N. speech for six-way security talks including South and North Korea, the United States, Japan, Soviet Union and China and predicted more talks on such collective security arrangement.

"But we need to make sure that such collective talks not break the priority of South-North Korean dialogue, the conventional bilateral security arrangement, and that they do not end up giving a single country unbalanced control over regional security," Hyon told a press conference.

On overall Seoul-Washington relations under Clinton, he said the three major guidelines were all outlined in No's telephone conversation with the president-elect—pledge to democracy, unchanged security commitment and deterrence against North Korean nuclear development.

"It is true some people say we overrated North Korea's nuclear capability after the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspection of Yongbyon facilities," said Hyon.

"But at the same time, considering the operational records of the nuclear facilities, Pyongyang's admittance that it extracted a small amount of plutonium, and the activities around Yongbyon still provide much room for doubt," he said.

"Not everyone agrees the suspicion was overrated," he said.

U.S. trade pressure may tighten when Democrats take over Washington, but it will be because of the increasing trade relations than because of change in the administration.

South Korea's rice market opening will be governed by the multilateral Uruguay Round and is not a subject of bilateral talks between Seoul and Washington, the ambassador stressed.

"Washington knows our position on the rice market issue. It's stance is that South Korea accept the outcome of ur settlements or provide appropriate alternatives. There has not been any direct pressure from the U.S. side for the rice market opening," Hyon said.

Kim Tae-chung, U.S. Congresswoman Hold Talks

SK2611035692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0319 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, a co-leader and presidential candidate of the Democratic Party, said Thursday that the U.S. troops should remain in South Korea until North Korea abandons its ambition to develop nuclear weapons.

Talking with Patricia Schroeder, chairwoman of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities, over breakfast, Kim said, "I wish the Clinton administration would hold up the second-phase troop pullout program involving 6,500 American troops until after the North Korean nuclear issue was resolved."

Kim stressed that the U.S. military presence should be maintained in the Korean peninsula until a permanent peace structure in the peninsula and East Asia was settled.

"An additional troop pullout must be done in close consultations with South Korea in consideration of the particular security situation in the Korean peninsula," Kim told the U.S. congresswoman.

He asked Schroeder to convey to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton his wish that the U.S. Government consider the particular circumstances facing South Korea in dealing with the issue of opening South Korea's agricultural market.

Officials, Media on Possible Rice Market Opening

Minister: 'Absolute No' to Opening

SK2711095692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0831 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korean Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Kang Hyon-uk said Friday that Korea won't concede an inch on rice market opening in the Uruguay Round global trade talks.

There was no change in the government's absolute "no" on the tariffication of rice and minimum market access by foreign rice, he said, and the government would try its best to get the South Korean view accepted at the talks.

Kang warned against the view that conclusion of the U.S.-EC farm talks had made Korean rice market opening unavoidable, saying it would weaken the Korean position at the negotiating table.

The agriculture minister expressed his strong will to protect the rice market even at the cost of other sectors.

The government submitted the country schedule to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in April except for rice, reasoning that Korea can't permit the tariffication of rice or even the minimum market access, he said.

When he was told that the Japanese media were turning to reports on the unavoidability of rice market opening, Kang said rice income there represented 4.5 percent of total farm income but in Korea it amounted to 33 percent.

"Even if Japan makes a concession, we will remain opposed to rice market opening because the situation is different in Korea," Kang said.

The ministry is pressing hard to cope with developments in the Uruguay Round talks in close cooperation with other ministries and the diplomatic mission in Geneva as they resume in full swing from next week.

Opposition Remains Firm

SK2711034492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea will stick to its opposition to tariffication of rice in the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations and will consistently try to have the round reflect the opinions of developing countries, a senior government official said Friday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said an inter-ministerial meeting would be convened Friday afternoon to work out countermeasures to the latest deadline on agricultural market opening, issued by Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Kim Tae-yon, assistant economic planning minister for international policy coordination, will preside over the meeting, to be attended by officials from the Economic Planning Board, the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Trade and Industry, and the Korea Industrial Property Office.

Dunkel told a trade negotiation committee in Brussels Thursday that political decisions on the Uruguay Round talks would be concluded by Dec. 18.

"There is no change in our position that we will not open our rice market. We will maintain opposition to even the minimum market access as far as rice is concerned," the official said.

"It is true that the recent agreement between the United States and the European Community will boost possibilities for the settlement of the Uruguay Round talks. However, the negotiations can be settled only with a consensus among the 108 member countries and they should refect the positions of the developing countries," he said.

'Resolute' Stand Urged

SK2611003992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Nov 92 p 6

[Editorial: "UR [Uruguay Round] Talks and Korea"]

[Text] Following the dramatic settlement of the farm subsidies dispute between the United States and the European Community, the two largest economic entities are now moving to join hands to force open agricultural markets in other parts of the world. The rice markets in Japan and South Korea are the immediate target.

Our government is trying to have rice and other essential agricultural products listed as exceptions to the general tariffication scheme but in the face of mounting international pressure, such an intransigent stand will be hard to hold.

Rice, the staple grain for the Korean people, is directly connected with the livelihood of all farmers and may even be related to national security, but foreign negotiators do not seem to be listening to this argument.

At this crucial juncture, all the presidential candidates are urging the government not to knuckle under to the foreign pressure. The government's and political leaders' draconian promises of no capitulation may temporarily assuage the growing worries on the part of farmers. Yet, there are doubts that their pledges will be fulfilled in the face of impending joint U.S.-EC action.

Compared with Japan's agricultural condition, Korea's situation is far worse especially in terms of accumulated fiscal deficits in the grain management administration. Furthermore, the problem is politically more sensitive here than in Japan as the farm population is relatively bigger and has a stronger voice in the still less-than-stable political situation.

Political parties cannot overlook the rice importation problem in their presidential campaigns and candidates' speeches invariably include outright objects to rice market liberalization. However, they need to have insight into the stark reality facing Korea and start preparing themselves for the worst.

Foreseeing that the government will soon have to make a painful decision concerning the opening of the rice market, we believe it necessary for the government to quickly move ahead with diplomatic maneuvers to minimize the impact of a final settlement at the Uruguay Round of world trade talks.

The outgoing administration and the incoming president will have to share all responsibility for a failure in preventing a breakdown of our farming community and upholding national interest. A resolute government stand both internal and external is most needed at this time of transition.

'Phobia' Over Foreign Rice Examined

SK2711013792 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Nov 92 p 6

[By Kim Yun-yul]

[Text] Prompted by a series of political events abroad, the phobia of foreign rice being forced on Korea is gripping the nation again.

The Clinton victory set the ball rolling with his pledge to pry open overseas markets long closed to U.S. goods and supplies. The new U.S. president comes from America's largest rice producing region and his abiding concerns for expanding overseas markets for America's surplus rice are understandable.

Then came last week's dramatic agreement that narrowly averted a trade war between the United States and European Community. Despite France's objection, this accord increases prospects for a speedier conclusion of the Uruguay Round, which, in turn, would accelerate resolution of the rice issue.

The last straw appears to be a report that Japan is wavering on its time-honored stiff opposition to rice imports. After all, the net benefit from opening its rice market could outlast momentary disequilibrium in national politics as it affords greater elbow room for freer trading.

If Japan should eventually open its market even slightly to foreign rice, Korea will lose the regional solidarity it has enjoyed with Japan in disallowing imports of rice.

Korea's position will then become untenable as it can ill keep its rice enterprise undisturbed against the onslaught of foreign rice available at considerably cheaper prices.

In keeping with its policy, following a political compromise reached with the National Assembly, the government agreed this year to buy up a record quantity of rice at a price 6 percent higher than last year's. The fixing of the price at which rice is purchased by the Ministry of Agriculture is supposedly done on economic principles as it should be.

But in reality it is achieved largely through a political process. In an election year such as now, this practice is even more prominent. Translated, it means that everyone is paying through the nose to safeguard the interests of rice growers who make up less than 20 percent of the population. I do not know of any other segment of the population which enjoys as much privilege.

In today's context, this rice policy looks anachronistic but when it was first introduced in the mid-1970s there was a valid reason for it, i.e. to ensure food security through self-sufficiency in rice. Unless one had to live through the time, it would be impossible to understand what it meant for Koreans to have this security.

This program paid off handsomely and Korea soon stopped importing rice. Fueled by attractive prices at which the government purchased rice from farmers, coupled with improved agrarian technology, production has steadily increased.

Meanwhile, as the general living standards improved, consumption of rice dwindled while successive bumper crops blessed the nation with a bulging surplus stock in warehouses.

On the average, the annual surplus of rice today comes to roughly 2.5 million bags (over 5 U.S. bushels per bag). Since Korean rice is hardly competitive in the international market, we can hardly sell it in commercial transactions.

The irony is that the current GATT formula requires Korea to import, tariff-free, 3 percent of its annual consumption volume, which comes to an additional 1.15 million bags. The percentage of imports will gradually go up to 5 percent in six years.

Korean rice today costs $1,572.00 per ton as compared with $402.00 for U.S. rice, while excellent quality Thai rice costs only $310.00. If we were to import rice from the United States, we would be paying only some 30 percent of the cost for home-grown rice.

If my own experience is a guide, the quality of American rice is certainly no lower than our own, the only disadvantage being the liberal addition of chemical preservatives needed for shipment across the Pacific.

Here I am reminded of the presence of large amounts of chemicals much beyond the tolerable level in foreign wheat recently imported, some of which turned out to be unfit for human consumption.

All these most certainly were not what the policymakers 20 years ago bargained for. Their success unwittingly created another set of quandaries today. The time has come to take the bull by the horns and get on with finding solutions to this new predicament. Keeping them under wraps indefinitely is unconscionable.

Sadly, however, there is no sign yet that a fundamental solution is being sought in earnest. On the contrary, all major party leaders running for the highest office of the land now are promising rice farmers that foreign rice will not be allowed into the country.

At the same time, they are promising at the top of their lungs that they would revive economic growth through export-led economy. They are either lying through their teeth or oblivious to the inevitable connection between imports and exports in today's international trading.

Solution to our "rice crisis" cannot be founded on whether or not we allow rice imports. To the extent that our survival is linked to continued industrialization and exports, we cannot afford to be isolated from global market openings because of our inflexible stance on rice imports.

Our options, therefore, seem for the time being to be "when," "how much," or even "what return," rather than "whether or not." Blind opposition and hysteria only make the situation worse for all.

We have a twin challenge of ensuring continued economic dynamism while keeping our social fabric carefully honed. Advancing one cause at the cost of the other would lead us to a deep gully. With this in mind, structural issues requiring urgent national attention would include:

(1) Doing away with politicization of the rice pricing and acquisition programs;

(2) Introduction of large scale mechanized agriculture;

(3) Shifting of rice cultivation to more economical and competitive produces;

(4) Plans for more profitable use of land;

(5) Effect of rice imports on national health;

(6) Ways to assist farmers reach a level of self-reliance; and

(7) Study of the all-around effects of importing foreign rice up to 3 percent of our total consumption level, as proposed in the Dunkel formula.

Political leaders keep reminding us that we need to seek out new ways of thinking and acting to respond to the changes taking place around us. The rice problem is an eminently qualified candidate to which a new thinking can be directed.

Our normal reaction to international pressures is to shun or skirt them or keep them at bay as long as possible. On the rice issue, such apathy won't do. It can only lead us to an avoidable grid-lock.

Every problem brings with it an opportunity to do our own soul searching. This is how society matures. We should now seize the opportunity before us to solve our rice paradox as a matter of urgency.

Nation Losing Self-Sufficiency in Rice Production

932C0013 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
25 Sept 92 p 7

[All figures as published]

[Text] Having experienced a substantial annual decrease continuously for several years, rice production level has fallen short of its consumption level since last year, and it is observed that the country will lose its rice self-sufficiency, does this trend become a long-term problem. It raises a particular concern that decreasing rice production may become a structural problem in view of the fact that the recent decline in production was not due to a poor harvest caused by the weather or insect induced damages but due to a substantial decrease in rice-farm acreage. According to today's announcement by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, it is estimated that the annual rice production level, which once, in 1988, exceeded 42 million soms [1 som equals 5.12 U.S. bushels], having decreased every year due to the shrinking rice-farm acreage and the declining usage of the mass-production oriented 'tong-il' (unification) rice plant, would fall to 36.57 million soms this year; this year's rice consumption level, meantime, would be 38.12 million soms (for the year from November 1991 through October 1992); production, thus, would fall behind consumption by 1.55 million soms, this year. This recent trend of rice consumption exceeding rice production began last year, when more than 700 thousand soms of rice had to be supplemented from the rice reserve in stock.

The significant decrease in rice production is attributable not only to the absolute decline in the farm acreage for the reasons such as conversion of farm land to other development but also additionally to the fact that farmers, for their better land utility, are turning away from loss-generating rice to other productions such as vegetables or, else, incresingly leave their farm-land altogether idle.

This year, the total area for rice cultivation decreased by 51,000 chongbos (1 chongbo equals 3,000 pyongs) [1 pyong equals 6 (Chinese) feet square], or 4.2 percent, to 1,156,000 chongbos from that of a year ago (1,207,000 chongbos).

In the meantime, rice consumption level, which has steadily exhibited a downward trend since 1987, has decreased at an average annual rate of only 0.46 percent, far below that of decreasing production level.

In spite of the recent production shortfalls, it is projected that rice reserve in stock this year would reach more than 14.14 million soms, double the base level of appropriate reserve in stock as of the end of October (around 7 million soms) owing to the successive abundant yearly harvest since 1981. This, never the less, is a decrease by more than 800 thousand soms from that as of the end of October a year ago, which was 14.87 million soms.

The level of reserve in stock for standard quality rice is only 4 million or so soms, because more than 10 million soms, which is over 70 percent of the total, included in the total rice reserve in stock are of 'tong-il rice' which the public prefer to avoid as for their daily consumption of rice.

An official of the (Farm Economics Institute) pointed out that 'the shrinkage in agricultural area would be inevitable considering that the government would continue to maintain its stance permitting conversion of farm land to other usage within the legal confines, except the designated agricultural development land.' and that 'current policies which effectuate the decrease in rice production should definitely be reassessed in light of the fact that the government embraced 'food self-sufficiency' and 'rice import disapproval' for its long range policy objectives.'

PRC Science, Technology Minister Visits

Meets No Tae-u

SK2611120192 Seoul YONHAP in English
0728 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China should work harder as companions promoting peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia, President No Tae-u told Song Jian, the Chinese state councillor and minister in charge of State Science and Technology Commission Thursday.

Song flew into Seoul Wednesday for a seven-day visit.

No noted that the two-way trade amounted to 9 billion U.S. dollars. Korea has invested in 280 cases in China, worth 300 million U.S. dollars, he said.

China and Korea, excelling in the nuclear and basic scientific field and applied technology and manufacturing, respectively, could benefit each other in many ways, No said.

He also hailed the brisk bilateral science and technology cooperation in oil research in West Sea and Oriental medicine.

Discusses S&T Projects

SK2611115892 Seoul YONHAP in English
0725 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—South Korean Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon and Song Jian, Chinese minister of the State Science and Technology Commission, discussed ways to promote bilateral cooperation in science and technology fields Thursday.

The two ministers came closer in their talks on the establishment of a Korea-China Science and Technology Cooperation Center, signing a memorandum of understanding and holding a joint cooperation committee, a Korean ministry spokesman said.

They decided to intensively push ahead with 10 joint projects out of 38 they had agreed on at their previous meetings in Beijing in March and September.

They also agreed to activate personnel and technological exchange to help the "G-7" project of Korea and the "Torch Program" of China.

The Korean program is aimed at elevating the nation's scientific and technological level to that of an advanced country by the year 2000, while the Chinese one is a nationwide campaign to enhance science and technology development, the spokesman explained.

The two countries agreed to send 20-member delegations to each other by the latter half of next year following the opening of the Korea-China Science and Technology Cooperation Center at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (FIST) Saturday and establishment of the center's branch office in Being next year.

Cooperation between the two countries has expanded markedly in the science-technology sector since last September when they signed an agreement on science and technology cooperation.

The ministers' talks were also attended by 10 officials each from the two sides, including Vice Being Mayor Hun Yongzheng and FIST Director So Chong-uk.

Signs Technology Development Accord

SK2711012392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] South Korea and China yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on joint research to develop high technology.

The document was signed by Korean Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon and his visiting Chinese counterpart, Song Jian, chairman of the State Science and Technology Commission of China (SSTC), at Kim's office.

The memorandum is based on the agreement signed by Kim and Song when they met in September following the normalization of Seoul-Beijing relations in August.

The two ministers also agreed to hold the first joint science and technology committee meeting in the latter half of 1993 in Beijing.

Under the memorandum, Korea and China will conduct joint research in 38 areas including new materials, Oriental medicine, electronics and aerospace. Twenty-one research projects were suggested by Korea and 17 by China.

In the new year, the two countries will embark on 10 search projects—"G-7 Projects" for Korea and "Torch Projects" for China.

Korea and China will exchange technical survey teams consisting of 20 researchers from each side. Both countries also agreed to:

Establish a science and technology cooperation center in Beijing in the second half of next year;

Dispatch "science attaches" to Seoul and Beijing next year;

Exchange 100 scientists and technicians who will participate in joint research efforts; and

Conduct a joint survey of the Yellow sea and research on Oriental medicine and cultural relics.

Song Jian paid a courtesy call to President No Tae-u yesterday.

Steel Council Agreement Signed With PRC

SK2611143792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1137 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—The Korea-China Steel Cooperation Council, that would serve as a conduit for cooperation between the Korean and Chinese steel industries, was formally inaugurated Thursday.

A report from Beijing and reaching the Korea Steel and Iron Association said that a Korea-China agreement on the creation of the council was formally concluded in Beijing Thursday.

It was signed at the conference room of the China Metallurgical Industry Ministry by Song Ki-o, visiting vice president of the Korea association, and Wang Rulin, chairman of the metallurgical subcommittee of the China Chamber of International Commerce.

The agreement calls, besides the creation of the cooperation council, for promoting mutual understanding of economic exchanges and enhancing cooperative relations between the steel industries of the two countries.

The establishment of the Steel Cooperation Council was first agreed on between Pohang Iron and Steel Co. chairman Pak Tae-chun and the China metallurgical industry minister during the former's visit to China early last September.

ROK Investment in PRC Totals $285 Million

SK2711023092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0047 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korean investment in China soared 225.2 percent in January-August over a year earlier to 124 million U.S. dollars (142 investments), the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) said Friday.

This compares with 14 million dollars (seven investments) between 1981 and 1988, 12 million dollars (13) in 1989, 57 million dollars (41) in 1990 and 78 million dollars (110) in 1991.

This year's brisk advance raised Korea's total investment in the communist country to 285 million dollars (313).

With active contracting between the two countries since Seoul and Beijing normalized ties Aug. 24, the figure is to shoot up much higher, KFTA officials predicted.

A 600-member economic delegation from Liaoning Province flew into Seoul on Nov. 9 and set up 62 joint ventures worth 192 million dollars with Korean companies during a weeklong investment promotion from Nov. 16 at the Korea Exhibition Center.

Korean investment in the joint ventures will amount to 80 million dollars.

Businessmen from the two countries also exchanged some 114 memoranda of intention for future investment and discussed two-way trade totalling more than 100 million dollars, KFTA officials said.

An economic delegation from Shangdong stayed in Korea during Aug. 29-Sept. 4 and signed 117 joint-venture deals and notes of investment intention worth 250 million dollars, they said.

Of the 250 million dollars, Korean investment in the Chinese province amounted to 185 million dollars, officials at the Shangdong foreign economic relations and trade committee's branch in Seoul said.

Diplomat Elected Chairman of G-77

SK2511030192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0135 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean Ambassador to Austria Yi Si-yong has been elected chairman of the Group of 77, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

The G-77 chairmanship rotates among three regional groups—Asia, Africa, and South and Central America—and it was Asia's turn to take the post for 1993.

Yi was elected at Monday's G-77 Asian group meeting.

He will represent the G-77 at all international organization meetings in Vienna such as the U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the U.N. Office at Vienna (UNOV), the ministry said.

JNCC Nuclear Inspection Talks Collapse

SK2711081592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0758 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—The inter-Korean talks on simultaneous nuclear inspections collapsed again Friday, seriously dimming the chances for the prime ministers' meeting next month and all other forms of dialogue.

North Korea repeated its demand for cancellation of the South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise "Team Spirit" next year while Seoul countered that Pyongyang must open up to at least one inspection before it could cancel the exercise, Kong No-myong, Southern-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), said.

The two sides parted without setting the date for the next meeting, and North Korea rejected even a working-level contact unless Team Spirit were canceled, he said.

South Korea and the United States canceled Team Spirit for this year, but announced they will resume it next year unless there is substantial progress in inter-Korean nuclear talks, meaning at least one simultaneous inspection before the next South-North prime ministers' meeting Dec. 21-24 in Seoul.

Pyongyang claims the exercise is a nuclear war game and insists Seoul has to announce its cancellation by next Monday before it agrees to further negotiations.

"Our plan was to hold working-level contacts a few more times next week, agree on an inspection regime by Dec. 15 and conduct the first inspection on each other by Dec. 20," Kong said.

Friday's session was the eleventh since the joint declaration of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, renouncing ownership and development capability of nuclear weapons, took effect early this year.

Talks until Seoul's decision last month to resume Team Spirit were stalled by Pyongyang's refusal to include military facilities among the inspection sites and to accept short-notice inspections.

Sources close to the talks said that the chances considerably dimmed with Friday's results that Seoul and Pyongyang will go ahead with next month's prime ministers' meeting.

"It strongly appears that North Korea is trying deliberately to hold off inter-Korean dialogue, and Team Spirit is the best excuse it can find," one of these sources said on condition of anonymity.

Further on JNCC Talks

SK2711080892 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 27 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] North and South Korea held the 11th Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] meeting to discuss nuclear inspection rules at Tongilgak in the North side area of Panmunjom on the morning of 27 November. However, the meeting failed to make any progress because the North side demanded that the South inform the North that it is canceling the decision to resume the Team Spirit exercise next year.

The South made it clear that the Team Spirit exercise will not be resumed if the nuclear inspection rules are provided and the inspections are made before the ninth North-South high-level talks are held. The South said that despite this the North side is refusing to discuss the inspection rules, intentionally aggravating the situation.

Since the North is insisting that the South inform the North of its decision to cancel the Team Spirit exercise no later than the end of this month, it is unlikely that the ninth North-South high- level talks scheduled for 21 December will be held. The North-South dialogue will probably be suspended after the 11th JNCC meeting and before the Team Spirit exercise is completed.

The North side has unilaterally suspended all joint committee meetings except the JNCC meetings, using the Team Spirit exercise as an excuse. The North did not suspend the JNCC meetings to use them as a channel for dialogue to discuss the Team Spirit exercise issue.

Unified Korea Seen as 10th Major Economic Power

SK2511030492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Nov 92 p 8

[Text] If Korea is unified in the early 21st century, it will be the 10th greatest economic power in the world, a state-run think tank said yesterday.

If unified, Korea would have a gross domestic product of $1,125 billion and per capita GDP of $14,368 by the year 2010, the Economic Planning Board and the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) reported to President No Tae-u.

The government will expand interdependent economic exchanges with northern countries such as China and Russia as they are sure to emerge as economic powers in the mid-1990s, Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu told No.

To get ready for unification, the government will push inter-Korean economic cooperation projects to reduce the economic gap between South and North, watching the progress of relations involving North Korean nuclear development and other issues, he said.

Choe, who is also economic planning minister, told No that his northern policy had given rise to new opportunities for the economy and contributed to energizing it.

He said he would map out advancement strategies on a country by country basis to develop a complementary economic structure and minimize negative impact of competition with northern countries.

The government would take steps to translate agreements No had reached with leaders of Russia and China into action as early as possible, Choe said. No visited China in September and Russian President Boris Yeltsin was here last week.

Economic exchanges with Ukraine, Uzbek, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Vietnam would be spurred to form a cooperative environment, he said.

Choe said that he would seek ways of opening an air route connecting Beijing, Moscow and Europe to cut the flight time between Seoul and Paris by more than six hours.

The government will work out measures to cut three or four days from surface travel between Korea and Europe by employing the trans-Siberia and trans-China railways, he reported to No.

Two-way trade with northern countries had jumped an annual average of 30 percent since 1988 to $8.1 billion last year, Choe said, adding that direct investment in northern countries totaled $424 million by August, accounting for 7.6 percent of Korea's entire overseas investment.

"The economic exchanges with northern nations will pave the way for unification, hastening the realization of a unification economy," KIEP said, forecasting unification in the early 21st century if northern and inter-Korean policies were successful.

The KIEP report to No said that a unified Korea would have 78 million people in 2010, almost the same as Germany, and a GDP of $1,125 billion, 1.2-fold Canada's, becoming the 10th largest economic power in the world.

It forecast that a unified Korean economy would encourage the 4.5 million Koreans living in the United States, Japan, Russia, China and other nations to form a "Korean economic cooperation zone" by joining forces with Koreans in Korea.

Northern nations occupy 24 percent of the earth's land and have 31 percent of the world's population, the KIEP report said, predicting that two-way trade with these countries would grow more than three-fold in 1991-96 to between $26 billion and $29 billion.

It forecast direct investment would soar to between $7.5 billion and $8 billion and purchases of resources to $4.6 billion in 2000, from between $3 billion and $3.5 billion, and from $2.2 billion respectively, in 1996.

* 'Open But Controlled' DPRK Economy Eyed

932C0019A Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 4 Oct 92 p 4

[By reporter Pak Ui-chun: "The Foreign Service Institute's Report Predicts Deeper Conflicts Between Open and Controlled Economy in North Korea"]

[Text] It is predicted that North Korea will face a serious contradiction when it carries out an open policy to overcome its serious economic crisis. It is because North Korea will carry out the open policy only to the extent that it will guarantee the "superiority of the socialist system."

It is also known that new internal measures aimed at improving its economy resulted only in a limited success. Such measures include an improvement of the people's welfare system and a currency reform.

The analysis is reported in the "Economic Crisis in North Korea and Prediction of Its Future Policy," a report recently published by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of South Korea. The report also indicated that for the time being there will be no change in the political system since North Korea will reinforce its internal control to prevent any ideological contamination that economic open policy might possibly bring.

The following is a summary of the report.

The North Korean economic crisis is a combined result of the structural inconsistency of the Stalin-style socialist economic system and a change in international economic environment due to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

There are three options that North Korea might possibly take in order to overcome its economic crisis. The implication of the three options is different.

The first option is to maintain the principle of its traditional self-survival economy.

North Korea will continue to maintain the Stalin-style controlled economy by the central government and will not give up the principle of self-survival based on the chuche ideology. There is little possibility that the North will maintain a negative position to the open economy, however.

It is because North Korea is well aware of the fact that it cannot resolve its current political and economic problems by means of the Stalin-style controlled economic principles. It is evidenced in the socialist economic system of the former Soviet Union and other Eastern European nations.

The conservative factions in military and party officials will show their concern over the danger and challenges that the open economy will bring. It appears that these conservative factions do not have any alternative to resolve the current economic crisis, however.

The second option is to pursue the principles of the market economy.

It is premature for North Korea to pursue a wide range of economic reform policies, including the market economy, unlike the former Soviet Union and other Eastern European bloc nations.

Unlike these nations, since the portion of foreign production for its gross national product is relatively small, the North Korean economy is not vulnerabile enough to immediately change to a capitalist market econmy.

Especially since both Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il consider the nature of their economic crisis to be a temporary one caused mainly by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern European socialist nations bloc, it appears to be difficult for North Korea to choose a fundamental reform.

The third option is to pursue a two-way strategy.

It appears that North Korea will take a two-way strategy to pursue a gradual economic opening while maintaining its controlled economy by the central government. There is also a problem in this option.

In case the foreign capital and technologies are imported as part of the open economic policy, it is highly likely that its controlled economy might collapse since it has to follow the principle of the market economy.

It is thus anticipated that reform in the agricultural system, which is a core item in the controlled economy, will inevitably be discussed.

North Korea carried out a currency reform on July 15 in an attempt to resolve the financial difficulties and the problem of inflation. The currency reform brought to the government only a limited success due to a shortage of consumers' goods and to protests by the people against the currency exchange limit of up to only 500 won.

Isolated changes such as the currency reform and the reinforced control will distort the economic structure even more deeply.

In order to resolve the inconsistencies in the socialist controlled economy, it is necessary for North Korea to adopt bold economic reform measures by adopting foreign capital investments, a price system according to the market role, and more efficient distribution of natural resources.

The biggest obstacle to such a reform is the communist leaders' worry about losing their power base.

President No Tae-u Discusses Election Campaign

SK2511131692 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 22 Nov 92 pp 2-3

[Interview with President No Tae-u by SEOUL SINMUN staffers at Chongwadae on 21 November]

[Excerpts] [SEOUL SINMUN] One and a half months have passed since the neutral cabinet was formed. Could you tell us the advantages and disadvantages of the neutral cabinet during this period? What is the task to which you are going to give priority during your remaining term in office?

[No Tae-u] I think the new neutral cabinet has done well not only in its presidential management work, but also in steering overall state affairs, responding to the people's expectation. When I announced that a neutral cabinet would be formed, some people were worried about possible confusion in state affairs. However, such worries have proved to be groundless apprehensions. The greatest priority task of the government today is to make the upcoming presidential election the most fair and clean one in the history of our constitutional government. It is also to tighten social discipline and discipline among public officials who are apt to be relaxed during the election season and during the transfer of government period so it can be smoothly carried out without creating a vacuum of state affairs.

[SEOUL SINMUN] The presidential election campaign is now in full swing. How do you assess the recent election campaign activities of each political party?

[No Tae-u] So far the election campaign atmosphere seems to be relatively calm and clean as compared to the past, and I think this is an optimistic and hopeful indication that our election atmosphere is being rectified. However, various illegal campaign activities, including the carrying out of campaign activities before the government makes an official announcement on the election day, have been reported in some districts. This is very regrettable.

The Central Election Management Committee and the prosecutors' office and police authorities have been closely watching these illegal campaign activities, and on many occasions urged the political parties to refrain from doing such illegal activities. Those involved in such illegal campaign activities have been booked or arrested in some areas. However, it is very good that political parties, though belatedly, have begun to show self-restraint on their own.

As I have revealed many times, my and the cabinet's determination to conduct the upcoming presidential election is very firm and resolute. Any illegal activities will be sternly punished. [passage omitted]

[SEOUL SINMUN] The political parties' presidential candidates have made public many election campaign promises. What do you think is the most important task that the next president should carry out?

[No Tae-u] No big differences are found in the main outlines of the campaign promises made public this time by the political parties. This means that our people's consensus with regard to the direction that our country should go has been formed. So, this is a very desirable phenomenon. The goal that we should seek in the nineties is very clear. That is to say, we should develop our economy to become an advanced country and, at the same time, should reunify our country so that the 70 million Korean nation can live together. I think that in seeking this goal a national consensus has already been achieved. I think that these two tasks are precisely the most important ones that the next president should carry out. [passage omitted]

[SEOUL SINMUN] Some politicians claim that the next regime should revise the constitution so that a parliamentary cabinet system is implemented in order to enhance the effectiveness of politics and to achieve national reconciliation. What is your comment on this? Which system do you prefer personally, the presidential government system or the parliamentary cabinet system?

[No Tae-u] I have already revealed on many occasions my personal opinion of the parliamentary cabinet system. I do not think it is desirable to talk about a constitutional revision at a time when my term in office is coming to an end and the presidential election is near. It is true that both, the presidential government and the parliamentary cabinet, are democratic systems. However, I think that the political realities and experiences of a country, its economic situation and circumstances, and its people's preference should be comprehensively taken into consideration. [passage omitted]

[SEOUL SINMUN] The United States will see a change of government in the near future. What are your prospects for future ROK-U.S. relations?

[No Tae-u] In his first official news conference on 12 November, U.S. President-elect Clinton said that he supports the reunification of the Korean peninsula based on freedom and democracy. In the telephone conversation he had with me following the news conference, Clinton reaffirmed the U.S. policy of continuously maintaining U.S. forces in the ROK. He also proposed that the two countries continue to make active cooperation in blocking North Korea's nuclear development.

U.S. President-elect Clinton extended congratulations to the ROK for its having achieved democratization and expressed satisfaction at the fact that the two countries have been achieving a balanced development in their trade relations.

I am convinced that relations between the ROK and the United States will continue to develop even after the Clinton administration is inaugurated.

[SEOUL SINMUN] You recently mentioned that North Korea may undergo abrupt changes. Is it possible? What will our government do in case of such changes? How do you think reunification will be achieved?

[No Tae-u] Experts at home and abroad have stated that North Korea may undergo abrupt changes because of the international isolation and economic difficulties which it brought upon itself.

However, this is not what we want.

We hope that North and South Korea will build mutual confidence through exchange and cooperation and achieve peaceful reunification on a step-by-step basis.

Nevertheless, we must fully prepare ourselves against such unforeseen accidents in North Korea.

Given the situation in North and South Korea and international trends, I believe that peaceful and democratic reunification will be achieved before the end of this century.

[SEOUL SINMUN] Do you have any specific plan to ensure that North and South Korea conduct mutual nuclear inspections at an early date? Can the nuclear issue be resolved before the end of this year?

[No Tae-u] The government has been making efforts to facilitate North-South nuclear inspections at an early date through North-South mutual dialogue and consultations with our allies.

For now, I think, whether or not North-South mutual nuclear inspections will be conducted totally depends on North Korea's political decision.

We will adhere to our firm position on mutual nuclear inspections to ensure that North Korea makes a momentous decision on this issue at an early date. [passage omitted]

[SEOUL SINMUN] How do you hope to go down in history?

[No Tae-u] The assessment of me depends on what historians of the coming generations will do. I will not go down in history the way I want to.

Still, I hope that history will record me as follows: At a time when order and values changed drastically, President No Tae-u opened a new era of democracy, improved confrontational and conflicting relations between North and South Korea, thus paving the road toward reunification, and consolidated a foundation for building an advanced economy.

I hope that history will also record me as follows: President No Tae-u worked sincerely and hard, though he could not do some jobs well because they were beyond his ability. And, he knew how to endure and wait.

[SEOUL SINMUN] In connection with lawmaker Kim Pok-tong's controversial departure from the Democratic Liberal Party, some political parties expressed doubts about the government's neutrality.

[No Tae-u] I expressed my regret that against my will, the controversy, my family affair, took place.

However, this incident was a mere family affair of mine. My and the government's will for neutrality is very firm.

[SEOUL SINMUN] On your 60th birthday, you said that one's life begins on one's 60th birthday. What are you planning to do after you leave office? What do you like to do most? Are you planning to continue to be involved in politics?

[No Tae-u] I have not seriously thought about my plan for the future. Because I am still healthy, I am planning to willingly do what the state and society require of me.

When I leave office next year, I, as an ordinary man, will meet with relatives and neighbors whom I could not meet often, travel, and read books that I have thought of reading while in office.

Because history creates a leader appropriate to circumstances in each era, I do not think it appropriate for an ex-president to play a political role.

Presidential Candidates' Chances Analyzed

SK2611115492 Seoul YONHAP in English
0647 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—Eight presidential aspirants made their candidacy official Wednesday, the last day of registration, at the Central Election Management Committee for the Dec. 18 election.

The frontrunners are Kim Yong-sam of the majority Democratic Liberal Party, Kim Tae-chung of the Democratic Party, Chong Chu-yong of the United People's Party, Yi Chong-chan of the New Korea Party, and Pak Chan-chong of the New Political Reform Party.

Also in the race are Yi Pyong-ho, a lawyer and candidate of the Korea Justice Party, Kim Ok-son, an independent who is the only woman candidate, and Paek Ki-wan, a well-known dissident leader.

Political analysts say that the 14th presidential election will be held under the situation that Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung are perfectly matched and that the tycoon-turned politician Chong Chu-yong keep up with them slightly behind.

Yi Chong-chan, Pak Chan-chong and Paek Ki-wan, who have their support bases, though they are limited to a particular strata of society, are expected to compete in the race with little chance to lead the country.

It is likely that candidates who lag far behind in the race will drop themselves out of the bid before the election day. They could join the ranks of the most promising candidate.

It is hard to tell who will leave the race, but the public interest is heightening on the topic of who will be the first dropout and who will be the next because their departures could influence the direction of floating votes.

In the 1987 election, Hong Suk-cha of the Social Democratic Party withdrew her presidential candidacy, voicing her support for the unsuccessful Kim Yong-sam, followed by Kim Sun-chok of the United Democratic Party who gave a shot in the arm to No Tae-u who was elected with less than a majority backing.

Paek Ki-wan backed off from the race with two days left until the election day, holding himself accountable for failing to field a single presidential candidate for opposition circle.

But he didn't make himself clear who he would support between Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung, then both leaders of opposition parties, running for the president.

Paek Ki-wan, Yi Pyong-ho and Kim Ok-son are said to be most likely to withdraw their candidacy in the upcoming election.

Pak Chan-chong is expected to be in the race all the way, given the fact he prepared for the presidential election from a year ago and conducted roadside campaigns.

Paek's move is aimed not only for the 14th election but for the 15th and 16th elections, analysts say.

Yi Chong-chan who has deserted the Democratic Liberal Party after being defeated by Kim Yong-sam in the nomination race also seeks to grab the nation's top elective office from a long perspective, they say.

If Yi decided that he was being outstripped by Pak Chan-chong, he might step out of the race to prepare himself for the next election, they say.

But even if he drops out, Yi is not expected to support any other candidate, since he has repeatedly asserted the need for change in the political leadership of Korea.

Paek Ki-wan has reiterated that he would not withdraw his candidacy at any cost to streamline the forces of the masses but there is a possibility he would renege on his promise, analysts say.

Chonguk Yonhap, the mainstream organization for the dissident movement, has already expressed support for Kim Tae-chung, reducing Paek's chance to stick it out the end of the race.

If Kim Tae-chung is beaten by Kim Yong-sam by a hair breadth, Paek has to shoulder all criticism from the dissident community. So there exists a possibility for Paek to desist his bid, analysts say.

Paek is likely to seek a joint front with Kim Tae-chung camp to save face for the political force of his followers but it isn't a sure guess either because Paek was known to harbor ill feeling toward Kim.

Kim disappointed Paek in 1987 when the two Kims failed to agree to choose a single presidential candidate representing the opposition forces against the then ruling Democratic Justice Party led by No Tae-u.

Candidates Kim Ok-son and Yi Pyong-ho are regarded as eccentric, making it difficult for observers in their speculation as to whether both would push their unlikely goals to the end.

* Funding Problems of Presidential Candidates

932C0004A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 1 Oct 92 pp 12-15

[By reporter Yi Yon-hong: "War of Securing Political Funds Among Three Presidential Candidates"]

[Text] The three presidential candidates, Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung, and Chong Chu-yong, are beefing up their efforts to raise their campaign funds.

Their fund-raising efforts are directly related to the election itself. It is because how much election funds one has is as important as how much ammunition one has to win a war.

Since election fund-raising is a delicate issue, the efforts are going on quietly and secretly. As far as political funds are concerned in Korea, it is a tacit rule that both doners and receivers keep silent.

It is suspected that the three candidates must already have secured a certain amount of election funds when they were nominated as candidates. No matter how much they have, it is not enough for a presidential election. Since they have to spend as much as they have, they may never have enough funds. Moreover, our political environment has changed in such a way that candidates have to spend an enormous amount of money. There is an old saying in Korean politics, "No money, no voters."

Nothing is known as to how much the three candidates are currently spending. It is merely suspected that several billions of wons [W] are spent each month. It appears that none of the candidates are spending as much as they want to, however.

Although Chong Chu-yong is known to have a personal asset of 3 trillion wons [approximately $3.84 billion], there are many cumbersome steps to convert it to cash. Despite his diligent fund-raising efforts since the last general election, it does not appear to go as smoothly as he wished. Furthermore, if he tries to utilize the Hyundai Group money, he must assume that the Internal Revenue Service will keep a close eye on him. He is yet in the best financial position among the three.

Kim Yong-sam does not have enough funds, either. Although he is a candidate of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), the current situation is much different from the past when the ruling party candidate almost had unlimited funds. First of all, the attitudes of businessmen have changed a lot. Unlike the old days, there is no such expectation that businessmen can maintain their established interests only if the ruling perty candidate is elected. A substantial number of businessmen nowadays do not seem to care who will be elected. Therefore, there is no particular motivation for supporting a particular candidate. Furthermore, businessmen do not have enough money. President No Tae-u's departure from the ruling DLP made the matter worse.

Kim Tae-chung is not much different from the others. It is known that he never had sufficient political funds since the time when the ruling party lost the majority of national assemblymen. Although it appears that loyal supporters will bring money to him as the election day draws near, there are not many sources who could provide him with a big chunk of money. Especially, since the national assembly is in recess, no businessman wants to appeal to him.

Despite a shortage of funding for all three candidates, their expense sources have been increased substantially.

Both the ruling and opposition party candidates had to spend enormous amounts of money in the last general election. Major portion of the expenses is labor charges. The candidates unanimously said that approximately 70 to 80 percent of their election expenses was for labor, especially for the party members. These days, even party members do not work for the election of their fellow party members without being paid.

In view of this, the ruling party candidate should spend more than the opposition party candidates. Chong Chu-yong also has to spend a lot, because many people join his party just for Chong's financial capability.

Compared to the last presidential election in 1987, there are less money but more areas to spend money on.

There are many theories as to how much money was spent for the 1987 election. The opposition party claimed at that time that the ruling DLP spent 2 trillion wons.

It is known that the DLP did not spend as much as 2 trillion wons, however. The story on how much the ruling DLP spent for winning the presidential election leaked little by little when former president Chon Tu-hwan started a temporary retreat in the Paektam Temple as a gesture to repent his wrongdoings during his presidency. According to close associates of Chon, Chongwadae [presidential residence] was controlling the fund-raising and its distribution for the 1987 election.

After the DLP's national convention on 10 June 1987, which elected No Tae-u as the next presidential candidate, Chongwadae handed over W100 billion in two increments to the DLP at DLP's request. In addition, all of the direct expenses were appropriated by Chongwadae. It is known that the DLP spent approximately W250 billion in the 1987 presidential election.

Although W250 billion is a substantially smaller amount than what opposition parties claimed the ruling party had spent, the absolute amount is enormous. It is by no means an easy task to raise and spend it in direct cost in just three months. If indirect expenses are included, the total amount will be substantially more than that.

Unconfirmed sources indicated that the candidates from the two opposition parties; former Reunification Democratic Party and Party for Peace and Democracy; spent approximately W20 to W50 billion. The ruling party officials claimed at that time that much more than W20 to W50 billion was spent by the opposition parties.

In any event, few people believe that the three candidates can raise funds this year similar in amount to that of 1987. The economy of 1992 is worse than 1987. But most of all, the political environment has changed substantially.

It is difficult now to get funding support from Chongwadae. It may be correct to assume that Kim Yong-sam himself should raise funds to support his election. In 1987, it was anticipated that retired president Chon would influence politics behind-the-scene. Few people believe that President No will influence politics after he retires, however. It is difficult to expect political funds from Chongwadae since No left the ruling party to set up an independent cabinet in support of fair election.

Several business establishments are known as funding sources of Kim Yong-sam. One is known as the one which supported anti-Kim faction when there was a competition for the DLP presidential candidate. Other businesses are those which have maintained long-term relationships with Kim, especially those located in the southern part of the nation where Kim is from. There is no evidence that their funding scale is big.

Among the four largest conglomerates, Hyundai is no longer a funding source because its honorary chairman established the Unification National Party. Daewoo is very cautious about making financial contribution to the ruling party, since, despite chairman Kim U-chung's denial, the rumor that he is contemplating the establishment of a new political party is still spreading. The unavailability of two major funding sources is a tremendous loss to the ruling DLP. The effect would be significant, judging from the importance of the four major conglomerates in our economy in terms of the capital they share.

Kim Yong-sam has just started a fund-raising campaign himself but is approaching potential supporters very cautiously. He is known to avoid meeting with businessmen if the meeting has a potential element of controversy. Kim turned down the request to meet him from Kia Motor's chairman, Kim Son-hong three times, right before Samsung decided to participate in the commercial vehicle business that was opposed by Kia Motor.

Actual day-to-day operations related to fund-raising are handled by Hong In-kil, general secretariat aide. Hong is a long-term secretary in charge of funding appropriation for Kim Yong-sam. Hong does not bring in money under his own judgement, however. He is known to be acting only as a middleman under the direction of Kim. Hong's increased activities indicate Kim's efforts for fund raising. Recently, Kim is getting advice from the DLP national assemblyman Yi Won-jo in fund-raising.

Although Kim is bringing in money, he does not know how much funds he has. He assigns his aides to handle the funds. Kim is not very keen on money. An episode during the 1987 election is that he treated several hundreds of his supporters to lunch in Sosan, but later found that he did not have enough money to pay for the lunch. He put the W2 million for lunch on credit. During the last stage of the election, he had to sell his private golf club membership to cash in W50 million.

Major funding sources of Kim Tae-chung are not well known. It is because he has to deal with political funds secretly, since he has been under oppression for such a long time. It is only known that small and medium-size businesses in Cholla Provinces where Kim is from are major funding sources.

From time to time, he gets a chunk of funds from special interest groups, but even so it is known to be an insignificant amount of money. Kim has been claiming that he does not accept political contributions with strings attached. By managing small funds carefully, Kim increases the effectiveness of money. He is known to handle even small amounts of his expenses himself.

Kim Tae-chung plans the expenditure based on the expected funds to come in to his party. His money management, therefore, is known to be very systematic. No matter how difficult the funding situation gets to be, he sets aside a certain amount of funds to be spent anytime.

Among the three presidential candidates, Kim Tae-chung has to carry out his election campaign with the least amount of money. Therefore, he has to be most active in fund-raising. This is why he is most active in changing the law of political fund-raising. He is in a position that at least the legally required election expenses should be appropriated from either government subsidy or trust funds, as long as they are not against the people's morals. His position reflects the difficulties in raisng election funds behind-the-scene.

In this regard, Chong Chu-yong has less worries about the election funds than the other two candidates. There is a rumor that he has already set aside a couple of hundreds of billions of wons for his presidential election campaign when he established the Unification National Party. Even if the rumor is not true, he has his own personal assets worth 3 trillion wons. Although there are some obstacles in converting his assets into cash, they will be under the shadow of the election heat as the election day draws near.

It is known that he is trying to expedite his efforts in converting his assets into cash. According to a rumor, he is prepared to spend at least W500 billion for this election. On the other hand, some people suspect that a shrewed businessman as he is will not spend such an astronaumical amount of money. Anyway, money is the ammunition and food in war. There is no question that those who have more ammunition and food are in a better position to win the war.

It is true that the amount of funds one has to spend will determine to a certain extent whether one wins the election. More important is the productivity of the secured funds. If the vast amount of money is spent in unrelated areas, it is useless. How many votes they can win with a given amount of funds is more important.

Trade Minister Reports Decreased Trade Deficit

SK2611020692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—The nation's trade deficit for this year is expected to stop at 4.5 billion U.S. dollars, less than half of last year's 9.7 billion dollars, with its exports totaling 78 billion dollars and imports 82.5 billion dollars, Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su said Thursday.

Han told President No Tae-u, in a joint economic ministers' briefing on the government's works regarding pending economic issues, that the trade balance was improving thanks to the favorable effect of government measures to beef up industrial competitiveness, support exports and stabilize economy.

The measures were instrumental in bringing down the trade deficit by 4.4 billion dollars as of the end of last month from the same period last year, he said.

If the current trend is kept up, Han said, the nation's trade balance would be reversed to black in a few years.

Military Officer Sentenced for Embezzlement

SK2511121192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1050 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—A finance officer of the Defense Security Command has been sentenced to three years in prison at a court martial on charges of fund embezzlement, it was belatedly reported Wednesday.

The Defense Ministry said that Maj. Yi Chong-son, 35, a finance officer of the Defense Security Command, was given the verdict after he used the command's welfare fund in investing in stocks and ended in losing about 460 million won in the command fund due to the plunge of stock prices.

Lt. Col. Kim Chu-ik, 43, head of the command's finance office, is set for discharge from active service for neglecting proper supervision of his men, the ministry said.

It said that taking advantage of his duty of managing the command's welfare fund deposited at commercial banks, he withdrew several tens of million won every month from last year end through last August for use in stock investment. He was caught early last September.

When the finance office began putting financial books in order in preparation for an audit from a higher office last August, Maj. Yi went into hiding carrying with him a large amount of the command's apartment project fund.

The money he withdrew from the fund totaled about 1 billion won but other than 460 million won were known to have been recovered.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Danger of 'Open Conflict' Seen in Spratlys Dispute

BK2611084092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0653 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 26 (BERNAMA)—Controversies among six Asian countries claiming ownership of the Spratly Islands can grow to an open conflict unless the case is resolved through constructive diplomatic rules, Indonesia's director general of political affairs said today.

Wiryono Sastrohandoyo said in Surabaya, East Java as reported by ANTARA that Indonesia which adopts a free and active foreign policy is always willing to negotiate differences through peaceful and constructive ways with other countries.

Indonesia hoped the six Asian nations involved in Spratlys claim—Malaysia, Indonesia, China-Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei and the Philippines—agree to the proposal to settle their disputes accordingly free from becoming an open conflict, he said.

Wiryono said from previous three meetings among these countries held in Bandung, West Java, Yogyakagta (Central Java) and in Jakarta, they have consented to solve their problem peacefully.

They also accorded to safeguarding and preserving the environment of Spratly Islands from pollution, he added.

Opposition-Led Sabah Assembly Amends Constitution

BK2611135092 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 25 Nov 92 p 1

[By Joseph Bingkasan and Joniston Bangkuai]

[Text] Kota Kinabalu, Tues.—The Sabah Legislative Assembly today passed an amendment to the State Constitution giving it the power to expel members on grounds of indiscipline, abuse or betrayal of the mandate given by the electorate.

All the 42 ruling Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) [Sabah United Party] assemblymen voted in favour of the Constitution (Amendment) Enactment 1992, tabled by Chief Minister Datuk Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan.

Nine assemblymen from the United Sabah National Organisation (USNO) voted against the Bill. Two USNO members were absent.

Tun Datuk Mustapha Datuk Harun, an UMNO [United Malays National Organization] from Usukan, who was present when the bill was tabled by the PBS president, was not in the House during the voting.

The amendment comes in the wake of a suit brought by Mustapha challenging the validity of the State's anti-party hopping law which was passed in May 1986. The matter is now before the Supreme Court.

A similar law passed by the PAS [All Malaysian Islamic Party]-dominated Kelantan Assembly has been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

With today's amendment, Article 18 (2) of the State Constitution governing the tenure of members of the State Legislative Assembly now has a Clause (e) which reads:

"An elected or nominated member shall also vacate his seat in the Assembly if he is expelled by the Assembly for conduct unfit for membership of the Assembly, for unbecoming behaviour or, in the case of an elected member, for abuse or betrayal of the mandate given to him by the electorate of his constituency."

This is the second amendment to Article 18 (2) by the PBS government since it came to power in 1985. In May 1986, Clause (d) was added which reads:

"An elected or nominated member shall also vacate his seat in the Assembly if he resigns or is expelled from or, for any reason whatsoever, ceases to be a member of the political party of which he is a member."

Before May 1986, assemblymen could only lose their seats under the first three clauses:

(a) he ceases to be qualified for election or appointment as member of the Assembly;

(b) he resigns his seat by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker;

(c) he is absent without the leave of the Speaker from every sitting of the Assembly for three consecutive meetings.

In presenting the bill, Pairin said the new provision pertaining to tenure of assemblymen was required to protect the dignity of the Legislative Assembly and its members.

"This is to ensure that assemblymen adhere to rules and regulations and at the same time project the best conduct or behaviour as honourable members of the Legislative Assembly."

Pairin said assemblymen who tarnished the State Constitution, the name of the Legislative Assembly and of the other members, were not fit to be assemblyman and could be expelled under the new provision.

He said such law was widely practised in the British House of Commons and the Indian Parliament.

"The Legislative Assembly is the highest law-making body in the State and as such it must be given due recognition not only by the people but more so by its own members," he said.

Pairin said the purpose of expulsion was not so much disciplinary as remedial, not so much to punish members as to rid the House of people who were unfit for membership.

He said that in the House of Commons, members had been expelled for open rebellion, forgery, perjury, fraud, and breach of trust, misappropriation of public money, conspiracy to defraud, fraudulent conversion of property and corruption in the administration of justice.

Cambodia

Spokesmen Brief Press on UN Sanctions, Thai Role

BK2511070592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] Uch Kim-an and Im Sothi, deputy ministers of the Council of Ministers cabinet and spokesmen of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government, held a news conference at the Sakal I Hotel on the morning of 24 November to brief the national and international media on new developments in the past week. During the news conference, Uch Kim-an gave a report on the Khmer Rouge faction's artillery attacks against a number of provinces, such as Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Battambang, and Kompong Thom which was the most seriously affected.

Uch Kim-an went on to say that the SOC will use its self-defense right to attack and recapture positions seized by the Khmer Rouge since the signing of the Paris peace agreement. He said that this would be done for the purpose of defending territory and protecting the lives of the Cambodian people. He also informed the press that the United Nations Security Council was discussing and examining various proposals concerning the imposition of both political and economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge. He said that these sanctions should be quickly imposed because we cannot let the peace agreement be blocked by the Khmer Rouge. The imposition of these sanctions should be carried out simultaneously with the closing of all border passes between Thailand and Cambodia, he added, before stressing that the Kingdom of Thailand has an important role to play in the Cambodian peace process to help put an end to the war that has been going on for more than two decades.

The news conference came to an end after Uch Kim-an had clearly answered all questions raised by the national and international media.

UNTAC's Akashi Said Shocked at Attack

BK2511151892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0948 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 25 (AFP)—The head of the UN peacekeeping mission here expressed shock over the ambush of an electoral team in central Cambodia, but the attack will not affect election registration, a UN spokesman said Wednesday.

Gunmen brandishing automatic weapons ambushed the UN convoy on Tuesday, shooting a Fijian election worker and his two Cambodian assistants, spokesman Eric Falt said.

One of the Cambodians was seriously injured when a bullet pierced his lower abdomen, Falt said.

The Fijian, identified as Aquila Turaganiqali, was hit in the leg. The three were in stable condition at a UN hospital.

The head of UN peacekeepers in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, expressed shock over the incident, Falt said.

"This is not going to stop registration from proceeding and extending as far as possible," the spokesman said.

So far, election teams have registered more than two million Cambodians for UN-run elections scheduled for May 1993.

The chief of the electoral component, Reginald Austin, was quoted as saying that the incident reaffirmed the need to act with caution and in close cooperation with civilian police and the military components of the United Nations.

A draft resolution being considered by the UN Security Council calls for redeployment of armed peacekeepers to protect the election registration teams.

Falt said the district where the shooting occurred—50 kilometers (30 miles) north of the Angkor temple complex in central Siem Reap Province—is controlled by Phnom Penh government forces.

But the area is near the scene of a battle last week in which Khmer Rouge guerrillas invaded three villages and were repelled by government troops, he said.

Other UN vehicles have been shot at in the past, but the incident was the most serious aggression yet against UN peacekeepers deployed in Cambodia, Falt said.

The election registration team was travelling behind a UN civilian police escort, which was not attacked, the spokesman said.

Previously, Khmer Rouge guerrillas have captured such teams and kept them from registering voters until helicopters have returned for them hours later, but Tuesday's attack was the first reported aggression against them.

Says 'Tension Could Lead to Warfare'

BK2611051492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0409 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 26—The UN peacekeeping chief in Cambodia said he was worried that escalating military tension could lead to warfare as UN officers reported a build-up of troops and arms movements around the country, according to AFP.

Yasushi Akashi made a day-long visit Tuesday to the country's southeastern provinces where he was told that Phnom Penh government troops had been ordered to move into areas where the Khmer Rouge presence is heavy.

"We are particularly concerned about the situation in the three (northern) provinces of Siem Reap, Kompong Thom and Preah Vihear. The Kompong Thom area is becoming very tense," he said.

"It is our strong hope that self-restraint on the part of all parties will be exercised in the end," Akashi said.

Throughout Cambodia's 13-year civil war, fighting has always been minimal during the five-month long rainy season but resumes in November and December when the roads dry out and make it easier to transport men and materials.

The Phnom Penh government has been warning that Khmer Rouge guerrillas are preparing a dry-season offensive, despite the peace treaty ending the civil war and the presence of 20,000 peacekeepers in Cambodia.

But traditionally, the Khmer Rouge use the rainy season to take land through guerrilla tactics and the Phnom Penh Armed Forces use conventional warfare in the dry season to win it back.

"It's important for Cambodians not to go into the bad old habit of starting the dry-season fighting just because the water is receding," Akashi told a meeting of representatives from five political parties in this provincial capital.

The senior UN official in the province told Akashi that the political climate was also tense.

"I would warn against complacency because this (Phnom Penh) regime has not seen any other political parties before," the UN official, Rajagopalan Sampatkumar, said.

He said parties were being singled out for intimidation, particularly the non-communist Khmer People's Liberation Front's political arm loyal to former Prime Minister Son Sann.

"We have not seen the end of this," he said, "it's just the tip of the iceberg."

The Phnom Penh government's provincial chief, Bin Chhin, told Akashi he was concened about the Khmer Rouge's plans for the future.

But Akashi responded: "We know they have considerable military strength but not the ability to initiate a comprehensive major confrontation throughout Cambodia."

UN observers were keeping a close eye on the situation, Akashi said.

Phnom Penh Spokesman Denies UNTAC Accusation

BK2711074592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Concerning the 19 November 1992 statement made by UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] Chief Yasushi Akashi, at a press conference held in Phnom Penh on 24 November, Uch Kim-an, spokesman of the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC], said the statement should not be made hurriedly and openly without evidence to support the accusation. The spokesman said: We are in the process of investigation in order to find those who are responsible for the matter, stressing that we are not the group which has carried out such actions. Should we resort to these actions, we would not have allowed them [other parties] to open their offices in various provinces and districts.

Uch Kim-an added: Those who had previously made the reports, as well as UNTAC, did not mind looking for concrete evidence before jumping to the conclusion that these were the actions of our agents. Therefore, we demand that evidence be produced and that accusations not be made against us groundlessly.

At the conference, the SOC Government spokesman also presented a report on the military and security situation, especially the Khmer Rouge's military preparations in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, and Battambang Provinces.

Concerning the UN secretary-general's report to the UN Security Council putting equal blame on both the State of Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge for the cease-fire violations, Mr. Uch Kim-an discredited the report as unfair. He said: We have always been accused of breaching the cease-fire while we have not attacked the Khmer Rouge in the territories they control. Only the Khmer Rouge have encroached upon the areas we occupy and attacked us. We have simply retaliated in self-defense; yet we have been accused of breaching the cease-fire.

Analyzing the report, Uch Kim-an said the UN secretary-general's report as well as other diplomatic efforts are aimed at further accomodating the Khmer Rouge, thereby encouraging them and providing favorable conditions to strengthen their economic and military positions.

He added: Should the international community be short of measures to deter the Khmer Rouge's violations, we have to envision counterattack steps to prevent the Khmer Rouge from assailing us. It is not us who will launch offensive attacks; we will only use our right to self-defense.

Opposition to PDK Sanctions Reported

BK2711004292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Nov 92

[From the "News in Brief" feature]

[Text] In a report, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said he opposed measures to impose economic sanctions on the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], adding that the sanctions against the PDK were not fair and that the best action was a diplomatic solution. He stressed that the best means were diplomatic negotiations.

National Services Decreed for Late Lao President

BK2511142792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Special communique of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, the State of Cambodia National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, and the National Council of the Kampuchea United Front for National Construction and Defense; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SoC], and the National Council of the Kampuchea United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD] would like to inform the public of the most mournful news about the demise of His Excellency [H.E.] Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the Lao Democratic People's Republic, who died of an illness in Vientiane at 1123 on 21 November 1992.

H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan was the best son of the Lao people and one of their most outstanding leaders. He waged successive struggles to liberate the Lao nation and motherland. He was a tireless militant who fought under all circumstances for peace in the region and the world. H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan was a prominent friend of the Cambodian Party and people who always helped us in our national construction and peace efforts. The death of H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan is a loss not only for the Lao people but also for the Cambodian people and the peace-loving movement as well.

In order to show our gratitude and express our grief, the Central Committee, the National Assembly, Council of State, and Council of Ministers of the SoC, and the National Council of the KUFNCD decide:

1. To observe a three-day national mourning from 26 to 28 November 1992 by flying flags at half mast;

2. To suspend all public amusement activities;

3. To send a high-ranking party, state, and front delegation to attend the funeral in Vientiane; and

4. To organize grand memorial services in Phnom Penh as well as in all provinces and cities on 28 November 1992.

Heng Samrin To Attend Funeral

BK2711105992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] At 0800 on 27 November, a high-level party-state delegation led by His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and chairman of the State Council of the State of Cambodia [SOC], left for the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] to attend the funeral of H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, LPDR president.

Accompanying H.E. Heng Samrin, were H.E. Bou Thang, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee; Mr. Chan Ven, secretary general of the SOC State Council; and Senior Lieutenant General Soy Keo, deputy defense minister of the SOC.

Seeing H.E. Heng Samrin off at Pochentong Airport were H.E. Say Phuthang, chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; H.E. Chea Soth and H.E. Sar Kheng, interior minister and vice chairmen of the SOC Council of Ministers; Mrs. Men Sam-an, chairperson of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions; H.E. Nguon Nhel, agriculture minister; H.E. Ney Pena, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; H.E. Sim Ka, chairman of Phnom Penh's Party Committee and People's Committee; and H.E. General Ke Kimyan, first deputy defense minister and chief of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces' General Staff; as well as several other ministers, deputy ministers, general directors, and deputy general directors from various departments and services.

H.E. (Bunli Tithalavong), acting charge d'affairs of the Lao Embassy, and the Lao military attache to Cambodia were also present.

Indonesia

Suharto Returns From Visits to Senegal, France

BK2611055292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0500 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] President and Madame Suharto arrived in Jakarta at 0940 West Indonesian time [0240 GMT] this morning after visiting Dakar, Senegal, and Paris, France beginning 19 November 1992.

They were greeted upon arrival at the Halim Perdanakusumah Airport by Vice President and Madame Sudharmono, Coordinating Minister for Public Welfare Suparjo Rustam, and Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security Sudomo.

Cites Efforts To Solve Debt Problems

BK2611071692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Indonesia will approach members of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized countries, in the spirit of partnertship, to seek their assistance to solve the foreign debts problem facing South-South countries.

Speaking to newsmen on the outcome of his talks with French President Francois Mitterand while on board the flight from Paris to Jakarta this morning, President Suharto said France has shown a positive attitude towards efforts to solve the foreign debts problem.

[Begin Suharto recording] So far only France, one of the G-7 member countries, had already accepted and put into practice its pledge to help the economies of developing countries. France had agreed to override and reduce the interest rates of debts faced by Africa and Asian-French speaking countries. It will also provide funds to finance development projects in those countries. [end recording]

According to President Suharto, the G-7 industrialized countries should show their political will to solve the debt problems of poor nations. [passage omitted]

Urges G-7 To Help Poor Nations

BK2611123392 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1027 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Jakarta, Nov 26 (OANA/ANTARA)—President Suharto has expressed the hope that the Group of Seven industrialised countries (G-7) have the political will to help solve the debt problem of developing nations. [passage omitted]

In Dakar, capital of Senegal, the head of state attended the summit of the Group of 15 developing countries (G-15) from November 21 to 23, after which he flew to Paris for an official visit from November 23 to 25.

He said that France, which is a member of G-7, has taken positive action to help a number of developing countries overcome their debt problems. [passage omitted]

The Nonaligned Movement (NAM) has 108 members, of which 47 have very small incomes. Eighteen of these countries are unable to simultaneously develop and repay their debts, President Suharto said.

He said that the industrialised countries have promised to set aside 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) to assist developing countries. To date, only 0.3 per cent of their GNP has been forthcoming, with the exception of France which has donated 0.6 percent of its GNP.

President Suharto said that France's GNP in 1990 was 1.1 trillion US dollars, the fourth highest in the G-7.

The United States has the highest GNP among the G-7 with 5.4 trillion US dollars, followed by Japan with a GNP of (?3) trillion US dollars and Germany with 1.5 trillion US dollars.

President Suharto said that he held in-depth discussions with French President Francois Mitterrand on the debt problem because France has assisted developing countries, particularly French-speaking countries in Africa.

The developing countries need to form a partnership with the developed nations, the president said adding that he had also discussed this matter with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in Tokyo recently.

He said he will discuss the problem with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl who is expected to visit Indonesia in February next year, and with other G-7 countrias.

He said that he also discussed the results of the 10th NAM summit held in Jakarta in September this year.

The summit suggested that NAM member countries increase agricultural cooperation to boost production and implement family planning programs.

Indonesia is prepared to train farmers amd family planning officials from Africa. But it is impossible for a developing country to finance all of these activities. Indonesia will therefore seek partners which are prepared to provide financial assistance, he added.

The French Govermment has promised to help finance such programs, particularly those involving French-speaking African states according to the head of state. President Suharto hopes that France will also finance such programs for Francophone countries in Asia such as Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Suharto told Mitterand that all NAM members are determined to increase economic cooperation and will not merely concentrate on political issues.

The head of state also outlined the results of the G-15 summit in Dakar which discussed issues including the possibility of the group accepting new members and new projects.

India will host the G-15 summit next year and Argentina in 1994.

'Open Conflict' Feared in Spratlys Dispute

BK2511082492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0600 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] [city name indistinct], East Java, Nov. 25 (ANTARA/OANA)—An Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry official has said that the dispute on Spratly islands in the South China Sea currently claimed by six Asian countries may become an open conflict if it is not settled through constructive measures.

"As a country adhering to a free and active foreign policy, Indonesia will endeavour to solve the problem through constructive peaceful negotiations," the director general of political affairs, Wiryono, told ANTARA here on Tuesday.

In connection with the claims of Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and the People's Republic of China (PRC), Indonesia's efforts to settle the problem through negotiations should be followed by commitments, he said.

Their claims are based on the strategic position of the Spratly islands in one of the busiest shipping lanes in Southeast Asia.

Seen from the economic aspect, the Spratly Islands are considered preserving oil and natural gas resources twice the quantity of the deposits in Java.

The last three meetings in Bandung, Yogyakarta, and Jakarta have resulted in the six countries agreeing to hold peaceful negotiations. They also agree to preserve the Spratly islands' peaceful environment.

Cooperation among the six countries involved in the dispute is important for Indonesia's efforts in finding a peaceful solution to the problem through a constructive diplomacy, Wiryono said.

Passage of Japanese Plutonium Ship Required

BK2611092692 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 13 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Under the existing Convention on the Law of the Sea Indonesia will have to allow the Akatsuki Maru to pass through its waters with its plutonium cargo should Japan request passage, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas says.

Alatas told the House of Representatives (DPR) last night that according to the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea, the ship's passage falls under the regime of "right of archipelagic sea lanes passage." This means that the ship would have to pass through special sea lanes determined by Indonesia.

Alatas said as an archipelagic state, Indonesia cannot declare all its territorial waters closed without providing special sea lanes for ships needing to pass through its waters.

Because the sea lanes have not been determined, the ship's passage will be carried out through one of the routes commonly used for international navigation," he told the DPR's Commission I.

Alatas reminded the legislators that Japan's request at this stage was only a possibility, which Indonesia must prepare for.

He said Indonesia had officially voiced its objection to the Japanese Government on the possibility the Akatsuki Maru would pass through Indonesian waters. Indonesia has also objected to the ship passing through the Malacca Straits, despite the fact that it is used for international navigation, because of the heavy traffic that goes through it.

Alatas said that the Japanese Government had officially informed Indonesia that the ship would "as far as possible pass through the high seas" and not through the territorial waters of any country.

Alatas said the government has received assurances from the Japanese that it will inform in advance the country whose territorial waters are used during the ship's voyage from France to Japan.

The 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea also stipulates that the ship must fulfill all regulations concerning navigational and environmental safety.

Japan Urged To Give Ship's Route

BK2611105392 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 13 Nov 92 p 4

[Editorial: "A Floating Chernobyl?"]

[Text] It is probably not exaggerating to say that the 3,800-ton Akatsuki Maru, now sailing from France to Japan, is the deadliest ship afloat in the world.

In its holds are 1.7 tons of plutonium, the largest-ever shipment of the deadly radioactive substance by sea. No wonder the Greenpeace environmental group calls it "a floating Chernobyl", after the infamous Soviet reactor which leaked and caused numerous casualties several years ago.

The plutonium, in the form of oxide powder, will be used as fuel for Japan's Monju fast breeder reactor. Japan is promoting a program in which spent fuel from its nuclear plants is reprocessed in France and the United Kingdom. The recovered plutonium is used to power the country's fast breeder reactors.

While other countries such as the United States, Germany, France and the United Kingdom have canceled their plans to develop fast breeder reactors because of the still uncontrollable dangers of plutonium, Japan is continuing its research. It is currently the front runner in the development of fast breeder reactors—the first is expected to start operating by the beginning of the next century.

Plutonium, which can be recycled repeatedly through a breeder reactor, is explosive and can be fabricated directly for use in nuclear weapons. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, eight kilograms of plutonium are enough to make a nuclear bomb in 10 days. Moreover, plutonium is known as a deadly substance which can cause cancer.

Thus it is understandable if the plutonium shipment has caused public outcries all over the world. Several countries have denied the Akatsuki Maru passage through their territorial waters. Environmentalists say the tiniest leak of plutonium could cause great damage to the environment and endanger human life.

They also fear the plutonium could fall into the hands of terrorists or countries trying to produce nuclear weapons.

Moreover, Akatsuki Maru is scheduled to carry 30 plutonium shipments from France and the United Kingdom to Japan in the next 10 years. Despite repeated assurances from the Japanese Government regarding the safety of the shipment—among them that the ship will stay 200 nautical miles away from country boundaries—many nations have voiced concern. Who can possibly guarantee that no accident will occur during the shipments? Some countries have suggested that Japan should stick to the more conventional and less dangerous use of uranium for its reactors.

The worldwide disarmament policies in the last several years and the dismantling of the nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union are said to have caused a glut in the world uranium market, thus rebutting Japan's claim that shortage of the uranium supply is forcing it to shift to plutonium fuel. Japan, however, has steadfastly refuted the notion of the existence of a uranium glut, claiming that the additional supplies resulting from the disarmament efforts will only satisfy world demand for nuclear fuel for two or three years.

Since the Japanese have assured the world that they will respect the 200-mile safety zones of the many nations, it seems apparent the Akatsuki Maru will not pass through the narrow Malacca Straits. This is heartening news for Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, which for weeks have expressed concern over the safety of the shipment.

But there is still the big possibility that the Akatsuki Maru will pass through Indonesian waters at some other point. Being an archipelagic country, Indonesia has to comply with international law and provide the right of innocent passage to ships passing through its sea-lanes.

The problem, as stated by Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas a few days back, is that the charting of the sea route of the Akatsuki Maru has yet to be done, since the Japanese Government has kept other countries in the dark regarding the ship's scheduled course. According to Minister Alatas, Japan has agreed to inform the Indonesian Government of the ship's route as soon as it approaches Indonesian waters.

This puts us in a very difficult position. On the one side, we have to comply with international law, yet on the other we do not want to put ourselves in danger by allowing the deadly Akatsuki Maru to pass through our waters for the next 10 years. What we can do is to call on the Japanese Government to immediately announce the ship's route. Keeping the route a secret could possibly prevent some harassment by environmentalists or a possible encounter with terrorists. On the other hand, by publicly announcing the vessel's route, Japan could show the world its good intentions. Besides, the announcement would give countries along the route sufficient time to take the necessary precautionary measures to prepare to help the Japanese watch over the ship's safety until it reaches its final destination.

Being secretive and mysterious about the route will certainly help cast doubts upon the sincerity of Japan. Since the country is de facto one of the world economic superpowers and since lately it has shown signs of becoming a more important player in world affairs, we hope Japan will act more in accordance with its new responsibilities and not follow the inclination of other superpowers to disregard the views of less powerful countries.

Japan should remember that the ghost of World War II, invoked by recollections of Japanese ambitions and atrocities, still lingers among us.

In the current environment-conscious world, Japan's insistence on using plutonium for its fast breeder reactors and its shipping of the dangerous substance through international waters in disregard of the objections of many other countries certainly will not help to improve the image of the Japanese in the eyes of the world.

Police Set Up Team To Probe Timor Rebel's Case

BK2611111492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1015 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Denpasar (Bali), Nov 26 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Indonesian police force has set up a team to investigate the case of Xanana Gusmao, leader of the Security Disturbing Movement (GPK) [official term for the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, Fretilin] in East Timor, who recently was captured by the military in [word indistinct] chief of the Nusa Tenggara police Major General (police) Hindarto told newsmen here Thursday.

The team comprises representatives of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) headquarters, the prosecutor office, and other related institutions, said Hindarto whose area of command includes the provinces of Bali, East and West Nusa Tenggara and East Timor.

Xanana who is believed to have masterminded the November 12, 1991 Dili incident, was arrested in an intelligence operation following some [?information] from the local people on his whereabouts.

Asked whether the GPK leader was in Bali as stated by ABRI spokesman Brigadier General Nurhadi Purwosaputro, Hindarto said he did not know because he had not yet received any official report that Xanana had been handed over to the police. According to Hindarto, the investigation team will be led by Brig. Gen. (police) Sutojo. He also said that the trial of Xanana might take place in Jakarta or Denpasar, depending on various considerations.

He ruled out the possibility of Xanana being tried by a military court as he was not a military member.

Laos

Joint Laos-U.S. Press Release on POW/MIA's

BK2711105592 Vientiane KPL in English 0934 GMT 27 Nov 92

[KPL headline: "Laos-U.S. Joint Press Release on MIA Issues"]

[Text] Vientiane, November 27 (KPL)—The technical delegations from the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] and the United States of America (?held a) meeting in Vientiane on November 20-21 to review the increasing cooperation between the two nations on POW/MIA issues. The discussion included a review of the results accomplished since the previous consultative meeting held on June 1, 1992 and proposed the joint work plan for U.S. fiscal year 1993.

Mr. Donsom Volachit, director of Department-2, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led the Lao side which included representatives from the Ministries of Defence and (?Foreign) Affairs.

The meeting was opened for the U.S. side by its ambassador, Charles B. Salmon.

The technical discussions were chaired for the U.S. by Major General Thomas Needham, commander of the Joint Task Force Full Accounting (JTFFA) which is headquartered in Hawaii. His delegation included technical experts from the JTFFA, the (?Defence) Intelligence and the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, also located in Hawaii. Both sides lauded the expanding cooperation on resolving the POW/MIA issue as quickly as possible while, at the same time, agreeing to look into ways to facilitate both the teams' work and humanitarian assistance to the Lao people.

The meeting included a review of the results of recent joint activities since June 1992 and discussed the details of a plan to carry out eight field activities during the coming year.

The U.S. expressed its deep appreciation for Laos' cooperaton on the POW/MIA issue and the hope that the expanded programme of POW/MIA activities would be successfully completed. The U.S. also expressed its appreciation to the Lao side on the occasion of the recent (?crash) excavation activities in Savannakhet Province which included a field activity of the longer duration with the largest ever U.S. team. The U.S. noted that the activity along with the recent visit of the commander-in-chief of the Pacific Command, Admiral (?Laso), the visit to Laos by members of the Senate Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, and the visit to Vientiane by a delegation representing the American Veterans of Foreign Wars marked a significant increase in activity between the United States and the Lao PDR on the POW/MIA issue. The talks were constructive and held in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation and in an atmosphere of improving bilateral relations.

SPA Elects Nouhak Phoumsavan President

BK2511133692 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Nov 92

[News release on proceedings of "special session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly" convened on 25 November]

[Text] The Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] convened a special session on the morning of 25 November 1992 in an atmosphere of profound grief, sorrow, and fond memories for respected and beloved President Kaysone Phomvihan. The people's deputies stood in silence for one minute to honor President Kaysone Phomvihan.

The session unanimously endorsed the appraisal made by the Party Central Committee on the excellent contributions and incomparably great virtues of President Kaysone Phomvihan in the service of our country and people in the past half century.

To ensure continuity of the activities of the institution of state power, the special session unanimously elected Nouhak Phoumsavan—one of our senior party and state leaders who joined hands with President Kaysone Phomvihan from the beginning to the end in leading the cause of national liberation as well as the cause of national defense and national construction—as president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The session called on the people of all strata and tribes to turn the sorrow on the demise of President Kaysone Phomvihan into practical revolutionary deeds by resolutely continuing his cause, holding aloft a sense of mastery, strengthening the unity among the entire people, and determinedly defending and building the country into a stable, lasting, and prosperous entity forever in accordance with the aspirations and life-long devotion of President Kaysone Phomvihan.

[Dated] Vientiane, 25 November 1992
[Signed] The Second Supreme People's Assembly

Nouhak Delivers Speech

BK2511153792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Speech by Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, delivered at special session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly on 25 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Respected Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon; distinguished guests; beloved members of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA]:

The demise of President Kaysone Phomvihan is the greatest loss to our country. This has prompted the SPA—the representative of power of the multiethnic Lao people—to elect a new president. I view my election as president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] by you, distinguished people's deputies, as an expression of your confidence in me as well as a gesture of trust, a great responsibility, and a great honor given to me to represent the multiethnic Lao people both at home and abroad. I would like to express my sincere thanks to you here.

At the same time, I would like to give my pledge to you, distinguished people's deputies, that I will undertake the role of state presidency with a sense of loyalty toward the nation and people, resolutely implement the party's line and the LPDR Constitution, contribute my entire wisdom and energy for the prosperity and progress of the country and for the well-being of the multiethnic people.

On this occasion, I would like to express my determination to consistently continue to implement the principled comprehensive restructuring as well as the foreign policy outlined by President Kaysone Phomvihan and our state.

I call on my compatriots to turn the grief and sorrow of the demise of President Kaysone Phomvihan into patriotic deeds, love of the new regime, and unity to defend and build the country aimed at turning Laos into a country of peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity, thus actively contributing to the cause of peace, friendship, and cooperation among the nations.

Thank you.

Radio Carries 'Brief Biography'

BK2611074092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Nov 92

["Brief biography" of Nouhak Phoumsavan, newly elected president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic]

[Text] Nouhak Phoumsavan was born to a farmer's family at Phanuka Village in Mukdahan District, Mukdahan Province [Thailand] on 9 April 1914. He joined the national salvation movement in 1946. He joined in the Indochinese Communist Party in 1950 and was later transferred to be member of the Lao People's Party in 1955.

His revolutionary activities during each period are as follows:

From 1946 to 1949: appointed chairman of the Lao Resistance Committee for the eastern region;

1950: appointed (?expert) attached to the economy ministry of the Lao resistance government;

1954: appointed representative of the Pathet Lao side in the negotiations with the Vientiane side;

1955: elected member of the party Central Committee in a meeting to establish the Lao People's Party;

1958: elected member of the House of Representatives;

1959: arrested and detained together with other leaders by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand;

From 1960 to 1962: serving as head of the negotiating delegation of the Lao patriotic side to form a coalition government;

1966: serving as member of the Standing Committee of the party Central Committee in charge of the organizational, economic, and financial affairs;

1972: elected member of the Central Committee and member of the Political Bureau of the party in the second party congress;

2 December 1975: appointed to be deputy prime minister and minister of finance;

In the third, the fourth, and the sixth party congresses, Nouhak Phoumsavan was elected member of the Central Committee and member of the Political Bureau of the party;

From 1982 to 1989: appointed first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and concurrently personnel attached to the Council of Ministers;

1989: elected member of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and later elected chairman of the second SPA and concurrently chairman of the constitution drafting committee;

The special meeting of the second SPA on 25 November 1992 elected him as president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Khamtai Siphandon Elected Party Chairman

BK2511132792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Release on "special plenary session" convened by the Fifth Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party on 24 November—dated 25 November]

[Text] The Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee convened a special plenary session on 24 November. The LPRP Central Committee expressed its respect and affection for as well as profound sorrow and fond memory of Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan by standing in silence for one minute.

Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and one of the senior leaders of our party, acted on behalf of the Political Bureau by delivering a speech opening the special plenary session. The session highly assessed the outstanding achievements, contributions, and incomparable virtuous actions made by Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan, who has left us forever. The LPRP Central Committee regarded Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan as an excellent son of the multiethnic Lao people, an outstanding patriotic revolutionary, and a hero of the Lao nation. The comrade devoted his entire wisdom and energy to the cause of the party and the esteemed interests of the country with a high sense of honesty and loyalty.

In the past several decades, under the leadership of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, our party led the entire Lao people in carrying out a fierce, uncompromising, and protracted struggle for the national independence, freedom, and well-being of the multiethnic Lao people to score an unprecedented victory on 2 December 1975. The comrade was an outstanding leader who was capable, talented, and clear-sighted and made significant contributions to writing a new page in the history of the new era for the Lao nation—the page filled with glory and prominent heroic deeds.

The session acclaimed the outstanding achievements made by Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan in leading the cause of national defense and national construction, saying: Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan was the leader who profoundly understood the reality in the country. He possessed an independent mind and was highly creative in applying the primary principles of Marxism-Leninism, other scientific theories, and lessons learned from many countries and applied to the special conditions in our country. The comrade utilized to the utmost his wisdom and worked tirelessly to adopt ways, plans, policies, measures, and steps that were suitable to the revolution in the new period. The comrade was a leader who possessed a high degree of sensibility and far-sightedness as well as put forth active initiatives. Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan introduced a new concept into the party leadership and state management. He was the architect of the comprehensive and principled renovation of our country. All achievements of our party leadership in the new period of history have been linked to the life and activities of Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan.

Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan was our close and intimate comrade, excellent teacher, and respected and beloved leader. The comrade has left us after having created great achievements and virtues for our country. The invaluable heritage left behind by him for us includes his guiding thoughts, rich lessons drawn from providing leadership to our party over a long period, and outstanding patterns and virtuous qualifications.

At the special plenary session, the LPRP Central Committee expressed determination to remain resolute in continuing the cause of Comrade Chairman Phomvihan by further enhancing the glorious tradition of our party, holding aloft the revolutionary endeavor, overcoming all obstables and trials, and consistently implementing the fine examples set by and the teachings of the comrade chairman.

The LPRP Central Committee pledges to unprecedentedly strengthen its solidarity and unification under the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau to lead the entire party, Army, and people to march forward along the path chosen by our party and people and to translate into reality the party's line of comprehensive restructuring.

The special plenary session of the Fifth LPRP Central Committee unanimopusly elected Comrade Khamtai Siphandon as chairman of the LPRP Central Committee.

The special plenary session of the Fifth LPRP Central Committee, which was convened under an atmosphere of high responsibility, solidarity, and unification—the fine tradition of our party—was adjourned with a glorious success.

[Dated] Vientiane, 25 November 1992
[Signed] The LPRP Central Committee

Khamtai Delivers Speech

BK2511143792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Speech by Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, at a special session convened by the Fifth party Central Committee on 24 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Beloved comrades: First of all, let me express my sincere thanks to you, comrade members of the party Central Committee, for having expressed your confidence and trust in me to undertake the duty of chairman of the party Central Committee in place of beloved and respected Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan. I clearly acknowledge that my election to the highest position in the party is both a great honor and a heavy responsibility bestowed on me. I pledge to carry out my duty with a sense of loyalty toward our party's cause and ideals with my utmost wisdom and energy for the esteemed interests of our country and people. I will always uphold a sense of responsibility and creativity to work together with you, comrades, in the party leadership to lead our entire party, Army, and people to implement successfully the two strategic tasks and the principled comprehensive reastructuring of our party.

I call on all comrade members of the party Central Committee to further enhance the glorious and majestic tradition of our party and to unprecedentedly strengthen unity and unification to act as the core of unity for our entire party and masses, which was consistently safeguarded and strengthened by Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan from the day the party was founded to the last minute of his life.

You, comrades, must firmly adhere to and strictly implement the principles of our party leadership, especially the principles of democratic centralism, collective leadership, and individual responsibility. We must speak and act in accordance with any resolutions adopted by the party. At the same time, we must step up discipline, correctly develop democracy, and sincerely and faithfully heighten a sense of mutual criticism and assistance to march forward together to make our party politically and ideologically firm and organizationally strong, as the genuine leading core in the political system of the people's democratic regime. You, comrades, must hold aloft a sense of revolutionary enthusiasm, mastery, and creativity to ensure the party leadership in all aspects of social life and in all spheres of work.

Our party is the ruling party responsible for society. Thererfore, we must firmly grasp our own historic cause, that is, to lead the entire party, Army, and masses to continue building and developing the people's democratic regime and to build all fundamental factors for gradually advancing toward socialism. This requires all of us who are the leaders in all spheres of work and localities to firmly grasp the leading role of the party in the new period, as well as the reality of our own services and localities, in guiding cadres to fight against bureaucratic practices and to do away with all negative phenomena to fulfill the tasks entrusted by the party and to take our respective services, organizations, and localities to march forward incessantly along the party's line.

Beloved comrades, at a time when our entire party, Army, and people are deeply grieving and sorrowful, I ask all comrade members of the party Central Committee to hold aloft a sense of revolutionary enthusiasm and loyalty toward the party by leading the people to turn the sorrow and fond memory of Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan into revolutionary deeds, resolutely following his teachings, continuing to firmly march forward along the path chosen by our party and people with a view to fulfilling the goal of building Laos into a country of peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity.

Thank you.

'Brief Biography' Aired

BK2611090992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Nov 92

["Brief biography" of Khamtai Siphandon, newly elected chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee]

[Text] Comrade Khamtai Siphandon was born into a farmer's family in Houa Khong village in Khong Neua Canton, Khong District, [southern] Champassak Province on 8 February 1924. He joined the revolution in the middle of 1947. He became a member of the Indochinese Communist Party in 1954 and member of the Lao People's Party in 1956.

His revolutionary activities in each period are as follows:

From 1947 to 1948: military officer attached to the general staff in the southern region;

From late 1948 to May 1950: representative of the Lao Itsala [free] government to the southern region and personnel in charge of building a revolutionary base in the southern region;

From September 1950 to late 1952: member of the Lao Itsala Front Central Committee;

From 1952 to 1954: chairman of the Control Committee;

From 1955 to 1956: General Staff member of the Pathet Lao Armed Forces;

From 1957 to 1959: head of the Office of the Party Central Committee;

From late 1959 to 1960: propaganda and training officer in charge of the radio broadcasting service of the Pathet Lao side;

1960: officer in charge of military affairs of the Party Central Committee and concurrently commander in chief of the Pathet Lao Armed Forces;

Comrade Khamtai Siphandon was made a member of the Party Central Committee in 1957. In the second party congress in 1972, the third congress in 1982, the fourth congress in 1986, and the fifth congress in 1991 Comrade Khamtai Siphandon was elected Political Bureau member and member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee. He was elected member of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee in the third and the fourth party congresses. He also served as a member of the committee attached to the Secretariat in the third and fourth party congresses.

From 1975 to 1991, he was appointed deputy prime minister and minister of national defense and concurrently commander in chief of the Lao People's Army [LPA]. On 15 August 1991 he was appointed prime minister of the second Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] in its sixth session. The special plenary meeting of the Fifth Party Central Committee on 24 November 1992 elected him chairman of the Party Central Committee.

Funeral Committee Extends Time To Lay Wreaths

BK2611024092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Press release of the National-Level Funeral Committee; dated 25 November]

[Text] Over the past three days, representatives of various central organizations throughout Vientiane municipality, various educational institutes, social and economic companies or organizations, and a large number of relatives from near and far, Vientiane residents, and overseas Lao residents as well as foreign friends laid wreaths and attended other activities to express profound mourning for President Kaysone Phomvihan. The funeral committee, however, has received proposals from various organizations and individuals to extend the duration for wreath-laying for those who have intended to lay wreaths at the remains of President Kaysone Phomvihan.

The funeral committee, therefore, has agreed to allow additional time for those who sadly grieve for the demise of President Kaysone Phomvihan to lay wreaths at his remains. The additional time has been set for the evening of 26 and 27 November, beginning at 1930 hours.

National Mourning Ceremonies Held 25 Nov

BK2611090792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] November 25 was the third day of the national-level ceremony to mourn the demise and pay homage to the remains of President Kaysone Phomvihan. The national mourning ceremony was held at the main hall of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] from 0900 to 1700.

During the ceremony more than 60 groups of representatives of various organizations attached to the Party Central Committee, Vientiane Municipality, and other provinces or regions separately laid wreaths to pay homage to the remains and express profound mourning for beloved and respected President Kaysone Phomvihan. Included were representatives of the party committees, administrations, and multiethnic people of all strata from Houa Phan, Bolikhamsai, and Khammouane Provinces. Laying wreaths on 25 November were also personages and senior revolutionaries in the Center and those attached to the National Defense Ministry, representatives of various factories or plants, hospitals, schools, and business units, as well as foreign residents in Vientiane capital, representatives of international organizations, foreign experts working in assistance missions to Laos, and foreign businessmen making investments in the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], along with other relatives both at home and abroad. The wreath laying was performed amid an atmosphere of deep, incomparable sorrow and grief.

At 0700, prior to the mourning ceremony, religious activities were organized. Food and alms were given to some 22 Buddhist monks, who came from various temples throughout Vientiane capital, to dedicate acquired merits to deceased President Kaysone Phomvihan.

In other provinces, various organizations and local administrations also separately held ceremonies amid deep sorrow and grief to mourn the demise of beloved and respected President Kaysone Phomvihan. In Xieng Khouang, Luang Prabang, and Attopeu Provinces, a large crowd of members of local administrations, cadres, state employees, soldiers, and police, along with multiethnic people, attended the mourning ceremony at each place. In each of the ceremonies a brief biography of President Kaysone Phomvihan, our beloved and respected leader, was read.

President Kaysone Phomvihan devoted all his intelligence and energy to the noble cause of the Lao people. He, together with the entire party and people, won glorious victories in carrying out the past cause of revolutionary struggle, as well as the present cause of restructuring our country of Laos. The passing of beloved and respected President Kaysone Phomvihan is considered a loss of a precious son of the multiethnic Lao people, a hero of the Lao nation, a great patriotic and loyal combatant, and a competent and talented leader of the party and the entire people. President Kaysone Phomvihan has gone forever. But his meritorious deeds, his virtues, and the light of his guidance will remain brightly with us forever.

In the mourning ceremony at each place, cadres, party members, soldiers, police, and multiethnic people pledged to resolutely be under the party's leadership, firmly maintain internal solidarity and unification, further strive to implement the new, comprehensive restructuring policy, defend territorial land and waters, maintain peace and public security, and build and develop the economy, culture, and society in order to gradually improve the living conditions of the multiethnic people in accordance with the aspirations of the party and state as well as the teachings of beloved and respected President Kaysone Phomvihan when he was still alive.

Ceremonies Continue 26 Nov

BK2611154792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The fourth day of the mourning ceremony service to pay last respects to the remains of President Kaysone

Phomvihan began from 0845 to 1130 on 26 November 1992 with representatives of many foreign missions, international organizations in Laos, learned persons, front committees, business sectors, enterprises, factories, mass organizations, students, pupils, and people of all strata in Vientiane Municipality and from other provinces throughout the country laying wreaths to pay homage to the remains of the late president who has left us forever with a sense of profound grief and fond memory.

The ceremony in the morning began with wreath-laying, in the following sequence, to mourn Kaysone Phomvihan by representatives of: the embassies of the SRV, the DPRK, the Kingdom of Thailand, New Zealand, Australia, Japan together with an envoy of Japanese Emperor Akihito, Russia, Palestine, Indonesia, Germany, the PRC, Poland, Myanmar [Burma], Mongolia, and Malaysia, and, in the afternoon, with representatives from the embassies of Cuba, India, the Czechoslovak Federal Republic, France, Cambodia, the United States, Bulgaria, Sweden, the UN Development Program, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the WHO, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UNICEF, the IMF, the International Red Cross, the International Women's Organization, and (?OSAK) assigned to work in Laos.

The mourning ceremony today was also attended by Father Tou Phia Louang together with members of the party and administrative committees, learned persons, and representatives of Hmong people from Hom District, Vientiane Province; learned persons and representatives of mass organizations from Khammouane Province; the front committee and the youth union committee from Savannakhet Province; and representatives of many companies and other groups of people who took turns laying wreaths to mourn the late president.

On the evening of the same day, to express my grief and fond memory of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, an excellent leader of the multiethnic Lao people, upon receiving the news of his demise, as his close comrade-in-arms throughout the revolutionary struggle, I would like to share my incomparable grief with the comrade leaders of the Lao party and government, the Lao Front for National Construction, and his bereaved family.

In the meantime, Kriangsak Chamanan and Wong Phonnikon, respectively former prime minister and former foreign minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, also sent a message of condolences to Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, expressing their profound mourning on the great loss of the beloved leader of the Lao people. They also extended their sympathy to the family of the late president.

SRV Embassy Delegation Pays Homage

BK2611152592 Hanoi VNA in English 1333 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 26—A delegation of the Vietnamese Embassy and representative offices in Laos led by Ambassador Nguyen Xuan came to the Lao National Assembly's office this morning to pay last homage to Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of the Lao People's Republic, who died in Vientiane last Saturday. On Nov. 25 a delegation of Vietnamese experts and students in Laos and a delegation of Vietnamese residents in Laos also paid last homage to the deceased.

Foreign Delegations Arrive for Funeral

BK2711123692 Vientiane KPL in English 0940 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Vientiane, November 27 (KPL)—18 foreign delegations are expected to attend the funeral of the late President Kaysone Phomvihan, due to be held on November 28, 1992. Whereas some delegations are to arrive tomorow, the following have already come:

The party and state delegation of Vietnam, led by Party General Secretary Do Muoi, consists of 14 members including Nong Duc Manh, party Politburo member, president of the National Assembly; Nguyen Thi Binh, vice president of Vietnam; Phan Van Khai, party Politburo member, deputy prime minister, chairman of the Vietnam-Laos Committee for Economic, Cultural and Technical Cooperation, among others. General Vo Nguyen Giap, a close friend of the late president Kaysone Phomvihan throughout his revolutionary life, also came in person along with the official delegation.

At 0850 A.M., the party and state delegation of Vietnam laid a wreath paying homage to the late president at the National Assembly Hall.

The delegation of Cambodia, led by Heng Samrin, honorable president of the People's Party of Kampuchea, president of the State Council, consists of 12 members including Bou Thang, party Politburo member, and Chan Ven, secretary of the National Assembly, among others.

The deletation laid a wreath paying homage to the late president at the National Assembly Hall at 1015 A.M.

The party and state delegation of the People's Republic of China is led by the vice prime minister and also Politburo member of the Communist Party of China Central Committee. The delegation laid a wreath at 0245 P.M.

The party and state delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is led by Yi Chong-ok, party Politburo member and vice president of the republic.

The delegation of the Thai government is led by Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri. He laid a wreath at the National Assembly Hall in the afternoon.

The delegation of the House of Representatives of Thailand is led by its deputy chairman of the Foreign Commission Siphanom Sithiworasan. The delegation laid a wreath in the afternoon.

The delegation of Malaysia is led by its minister of domestic trade and acting minister of foreign affairs Datuk Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar. His delegation laid a wreath in the afternoon.

The government delegation of Japan is led by Taro Nakayama, former foreign minister, who also aid a wreath in the afternoon.

The delegation of Myanmar is led by its foreign minister, U Ohn Gyaw. This delegation laid a wreath in the afternoon.

The delegation of Indonesia is led by Mr. Sudomo, minister for political and security liaison, representing President Suharto. This delegation laid a wreath in the afternoon. The delegation of Australia is led by Ms. Wendy Fatin, minister to the prime minister's office, minister for the arts and territories. The delegation of the Royal Palace of Thailand, led by HRH [His Royal Highness] Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon, on behalf of His Majesty the King of Thailand, and by HRH [Her Royal Highness] Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon, will arrive tomorrow morning. (?It is reported that) the governments of Sweden, Russia, the Netherlands, Italy and Norway have appointed their respective ambassadors to attend the funeral.

Foreign Leaders Send Condolences

Burma, DPRK, PLO Leaders

BK2611105192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and prime minister of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], sent a message of condolences to our leaders on the death of Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The main content of the message reads:

I am deeply shocked and grieved to learn the news of the sudden demise of His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan, an old friend of Myanmar. By his demise, the Lao Government and people have lost a very respected leader and an outstanding statesman who had made great contributions to national construction and the strengthening of peace and friendship in this region.

The Government and people of Myanmar and I would like to extend our profound mourning to the Lao Government and people in this time of sadness.

On the same occasion our leaders also received a message of condolences from Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the People's Supreme Assembly of the DPRK; Yon Hyong-mok, premier of the DPRK; and Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign affairs minister of the DPRK; as well as a message of condolences from Faruq Qaddumi, foreign affairs minister of the state of Palestine and head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The said messages expressed profound sorrow to our Lao leaders and the bereaved family of Kaysone Phomvihan and share the grief with the multiethnic Lao people.

SRV's Vo Nguyen Giap

BK2611153592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A number of politicians and important persons who were very close to the revolutionary life of Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan, such as Vo Nguyen Giap of the SRV, also sent messages of condolences to our party and state leaders on the demise of the late chairman.

Vo Nguyen Giap's message reads: I am deeply grieved to receive the news on the demise of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, excellent leader of the multiethnic Lao people. As his close comrade-in-arms throughout the period of the revolution, I would like to share my incomparable grief and sorrow with the comrade leaders of the party, the government, the Lao Front for National Construction, and the family of Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan.

Cuba's Castro

BK2711100292 Vientiane KPL in English 0920 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Vientiane, November 27 (KPL)—Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, chairman of the State Council, and president of the government of the Republic of Cuba, has recently sent a message of condolences to Lao leaders in connection with the death of the Lao president, Kaysone Phomvihan.

The message was addressed to Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the republic [and] of the People's Supreme Assembly, and Politiburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC], and to Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, Lao prime minister and president of the LPRP CC.

In his message, Fidel Castro said that he learnt the news of the passing away of Kaysone Phomvihan who had set a brilliant example of devotion to the just struggle for the nation and the revolution.

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan was a leader who devoted all his life to the struggle against colonialism and imperialism for independence, sovereignty and prosperity for the Lao people, for peace and security in the region, said Fidel Castro.

The party, government, and people of Cuba are grieved with the demise of our true friend, who over the past has rendered support and encouragement to the Cuban revolution. We are convinced that the party, government, and people of Laos could follow the cause to which Mr. Kaysone Phomvihan had devoted wisdom and energy, continues the message.

Through you, we would like to convey deepest sorrow to the Central Committee of the Lao PRP [People's Revolutionary Party], to the government and people of Laos, to the family and friends of the deceased, concludes the message.

UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali

BK2711114492 Vientiane KPL in English 0925 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Vientiane, November 27 (KPL)—President Nouhak Phoumsavan has received a telegram of condolences from Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN general secretary, in connection with the death of the late President Kaysone Phomvihan.

The UN general secreary praised Mr. Kaysone Phomvihan as one of the world's great politicians of our time who had devoted his energy for the well-being of the people in the country. He was (?said) to have sacrificed his life for the people's independence and for a better state of social justice.

Butrus Ghali said in his message that having successfully freed the nation from the colonial yoke, Kaysone Phomvihan had tirelessly sought ways to bring about stability and progress to Laos.

As the UN general secretary, Butrus Ghali said that he particularly appreciated Mr. Kaysone Phomvihan's continued effort in adhering to the non-extremist position with regards to military conflicts in Southeast Asia.

The UN general secretary concluded his note by extending his wish to share the grief with the Lao people, government and with the bereaved family.

Philippines

Military To Request Bigger Budget

HK2611102292 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief of staff, said the AFP will have to ask Congress for a larger budget allocation so that it can make up for the losses incurred with the cut in U.S. military aid. He said U.S. aid for the AFP has been reduced from $200 million to $25 million for the current year. However, Abadia said the cut in U.S. military aid will not affect the AFP's 10-year modernization program.

Ramos Promises Armed Forces Modernization

HK2711094492 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] will be accomplished within the Ramos administration. President Fidel V. Ramos gave this assurance when he made a statement after the last U.S. troops formally left Subic Naval Base, saying he would certify as urgent the administration bill which, when passed into law, will allocate more funds for the Armed Forces.

Ramos said that from such additional funding the Armed Forces may be able to purchase new arms and equipment. Ramos stressed he is assuring that the AFP will be modernized during his term, adding that as of now the Philippines is the only country in southeast Asia without any missile capability.

Estrada Offers Rebel Honasan Government Post

HK2511022892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] Vice President Joseph M. Estrada has offered renegade Colonel Gregorio Gringo Honasan a position on the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission [PACC] as soon as Honasan surrenders. Estrada said he believes that Honasan not only can be an asset to the PACC but to the entire Reform the Armed Forces Movement organization as well. Honasan's experience, Estrada added, can help identify and purge military scalawags. The vice president believes in Honasan's intelligence and incorruptibility.

Meanwhile, Estrada said he is asking President Fidel V. Ramos to give his approval before he formally assigns Honasan a post at the PACC. Prior to this, the National Unification Commission announced that Honasan might surrender before Christmas.

Seized Documents Show NPA Plans To Strengthen

HK2511133692 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] The New People's Army [NPA] is said to be planning to increase its membership and to strengthen its ranks to be able to continue its armed struggle. Military officials learned this from documents seized from an NPA group.

The documents describe the current policy of small formations to avoid frontal encounters with government forces.

Under the three-year work plan, allegedly approved by the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front in its 10th party plenum last July, the central committee is abolishing battalion- and company-sized guerrilla units to give way to the formation of mass and guerrilla bases.

Enrile: 'Strategic Control' by Yearend Impossible

HK2611032692 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Army chief Lieutenant General Arturo Enrile today admitted that the military can no longer substantially reduce the number of New People's Army [NPA] rebels but said that the NPA itself is losing strength because government forces continue to recover villages under its influence.

Enrile said it is no longer possible to achieve the objective of reducing the NPA ranks to 8,000 members and its number of firearms to 70,000 [figure as heard] before the end of this year to achieve so-called strategic control. But he said the military will achieve its target of reducing the number of barangay under NPA control or influence to 2,000 nationwide before yearend.

Enrile blamed this on the rebels' reversion to their old tactic of avoiding encounters when they are at a disadvantage. Jose Maria Sison [alleged founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines] had earlier said the NPA had enlarged their regular formations too soon, and became more willing to fight frontally with government forces.

Enrile said the NPA rebels can hide, but they cannot do this in the long term.

He added that the continued recovery of more villages from the NPA is a big blow to the insurgency movement.

Thailand

UN Leaders Arrive From Cambodia for Talks

BK2611141692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1012 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Bangkok, Nov 26 (AFP)—The top United Nations officials in Cambodia arrived here Thursday for talks with the Thai government over the implementation of sanctions against the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group.

Diplomats familiar with developments in Cambodia said the discussions are expected to touch on issues considered highly sensitive in the Thai capital, such as the establishment of border checkpoints.

Yasushi Akashi, a Japanese diplomat who heads the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), arrived from Phnom Penh on a special U.N. flight along with UNTAC's military commander, Australian Lieutenant General John Sanderson, airport officials said.

They are to hold separate meetings Friday with Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri.

The talks will take place after four of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security agreed on a draft resolution calling for measures to cut oil supplies to the radical Khmer Rouge, which has been blocking Cambodia's peace process since June.

The draft, which has the backing of Britain, France, Russia and the United States but not China, does not explicitly describe the measures as sanctions, but does call for the establishment of border checkpoints.

While not mentioning Thailand by name it calls on "neighbouring countries" of Cambodia to fully assist in the establishment and maintenance of those checkpoints.

This, diplomats say, is a highly sensitive issue here. The Thai government has pledged to comply with any U.N. resolution to bring the Khmer Rouge back into line, but Bangkok has repeatedly warned that sanctions would not work.

The government here has been subjected over the past few weeks to strong pressures from businessman involved in a multimillion-dollar cross-border trade with the Khmer Rouge in gems and timber.

The traders have powerful political and military connections. [passage omitted]

Europe's Single Market Seen as 'Greater Threat'

BK2511031392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Nov 92 p B12

[By Atchara Phongwutthitham]

[Text] Europe under the Single Market will be a greater threat to Thai exports than the North America Free Trade Area [NAFTA], according to Kroekkrai Chiraphaet, deputy permanent secretary for commerce.

The EC is said to have more trade protection measures and stricter controls, which could undermine Thai exports.

The Single Market programme will start in January next year, while NAFTA will take another seven to 15 years to become effective.

Thai firms will have to take advantage of NAFTA by investing in Canada, Mexico or the US, Kroekkrai said at a seminar yesterday.

The effect of the EC Single Market will be "trade creation" in raw materials between member nations and "trade diversion" between the EC and outside trading partners, as EC can be expected to become more protectionist.

But the Single Market will give a competitive edge to Southeast Asia over the newly-industrialized countries which are at the same development.

Foreign Trade Mission To Travel to Russia

BK2411023592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Nov 92 p 28

[Text] The Thai Gems and Jewellery Traders' Association will make an offer to Russia to trade Thai rice for its diamonds.

An association source said the association's president, Phonsit Si-orathaikun, will be among a mission of the Foreign Trade Department [FTD] which will fly to Russia to seek opportunities to trade Thai rice for Russian diamonds.

The association is interested in Russian diamonds due to their suitable quality for production of jewellery.

Meanwhile, a source in the Government House said the Cabinet recently decided to postpone a new agreement to sell rice on credit to Russia after the Finance Ministry learned of financial problems in Russia which could pose difficulties to the country in paying for the rice.

The Cabinet ordered the Commerce Ministry to seek new overseas markets where there are no financial problems.

The source said the decision also came because Thailand was unsure whether Russia would be able to pay the outstanding debt of 4,000 million baht incurred from a purchase of 500,000 tons of Thai rice for which the payment is due in January 1994.

In addition, the credit term for a new rice sale to Russia, which carries a 7.25 percent annual interest rate and a price discount for 15 percent grade rice of $5 to $275.5 per ton, is unacceptable.

FTD director-general Chare Chutaratanakun said Russia had confirmed to pay for the rice purchased from Thailand. It offered to pay $63 million for 200,000 tons it bought in late 1990 on a credit basis.

For the 500,000 tons which Russia imported early this year, it confirmed to pay on the due date.

House Debates Internal Peacekeeping Director Act

BK2611035092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Opposition members forced an adjournment of the Lower House yesterday after attacking a government-sponsored bill to abolish the Internal Peacekeeping Director Act.

This was the act invoked by the Suchinda Khraprayun government and military leaders to crush pro-democracy protests in mid-May.

Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Banthatthan said he was dismayed by the move, which he described as a "tough political game".

It came as a surprise, he said seeing as the same people had readily voted for the bill in the last Parliament.

The Lower House voted unanimously on June 29 to support a bill abolishing the Internal Peace-keeping Director Act in three readings. The bill failed to become law after the Anan government dissolved the Lower House and called an election.

Mr Banyat said: "If we do not allow ourselves to be forgetful, we will remember that all political parties voted unanimously to approve the bill. We must seriously wonder how short the memories of some people can be."

He said Seri Tham Party leader Athit Urairat, who was speaker of the Lower House in the last parliamentary session, allowed MPs to debate the bill fully and they voted overwhelmingly to pass it.

Judging from the support in the Lower House for the bill during the last Parliament, the Opposition's strong disagreement to the draft took the Government by surprise, Mr Banyat said.

"We cannot yet say what game the Opposition is playing. But we will keep a close watch. We will also see how the media reacts," he said.

House Speaker Marut Bunnak was forced to order the meeting adjourned yesterday after Opposition leaders called on him to check on whether there was a quorum. This followed Mr Marut's request for members to vote on the bill following a lengthy and heated debate.

Muan Chon Party leader Chaloem Yubamrung strongly criticised the Prime Minister for proposing the bill.

He said there are matters needing more urgent consideration such as the 1952 Emergency Act giving a great deal of power to Cabinet members in an emergency situation, and the 1914 Martial Law Act. He said the two acts should be repealed immediately.

But the Internal Peacekeeping Director Act should be maintained, he said, as it would give the prime minister powers he might require in time of political need.

Pol Capt [Police Captain] Chaloem said it was a misunderstanding to think that the supreme commander would be the real holder of power under the act.

"The supreme commmunder would have the power only after being appointed by the premier," he said.

The act, passed in 1976, gives the prime minister the power to appoint a supreme commander to lead the Internal Peacekeeping Command (IPKC). It clearly stipulates that the power of the IPKC is absolute and no one can countermand the commander of the IPKC.

Pol Capt Chalerm said former prime minister Anan Phanyarachun had issued an order removing the supreme commander from the post. The commander could not become the head of the IPKC without appointment by the premier.

"I call on the premier to withdraw the bill and keep the powers (of the IPKC) intact," said Pol Capt Chaloem.

"If you do not want the power then you can quit (the premier post) and let "Serpico" Chawalit take over," he said sarcastically, referring to New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

Government MP's protested loudly when Pol Capt Chaloem called Prime Minister Chuan Likphai "a fraud".

House Speaker Marut urged, him to retract the expression, saying he considered the term to be too strong.

Pol Capt Chaloem initially declined, but finally withdrew the expression after several Democrat MPs insisted that he do so.

Finally, the House Speaker ordered him to stop making such comments as he considered them responsible for the repeated protests from government MPs and excessive delay in consideration of the bill.

Prachakon Thai leader Samak Sunthorawet said he considered the act beneficial to the country.

He could not understand why the Premier wanted to abolish the act, which gave him the power to resolve a crisis once it occurred.

Comparing the act to a key that helps to unlock a gun-shelf, Mr Samak recommended that the Premier keep the key until he considered it necessary to use "once the situation gets explosive and out of control."

"Why does the Premier want to throw the key into the water?" he asked.

Democrat MP Pricha Suwannathat supported the repeal of the act, saying that in the current situation there was no need for it.

"The power given to the supreme commander under the act is absolute power, and that would not be correct," he said.

Chat Phatthana advisory chairman Gen Athit Kamlang-ek said he was opposed to the repeal of the act.

House Passes Bill

BK2611152992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The meeting of the House of Representatives resumed today at 1350, continuing the debate from yesterday on the government-sponsored draft bill to repeal the Internal Peacekeeping Command Act. The session was presided over by House Speaker Marut Bunnak. Government MPs defended the bill on the grounds that the law on the internal peacekeeping command is no longer suitable for the situation in the country because the country now has peace and democracy. Moreover, the law has not benefited the people since it came into force 16 years ago but has served the purposes of those staging coups d'etat to seize power.

MPs in the opposition bloc, meanwhile, debated against abolishing the law. They wanted the law to remain in existence for several reasons, they said especially since this is the only law left which gives the prime minister authority to order the military to deal with any incidents threatening national security.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai explained that abolition of the law would not curtail the power of the prime minister or that of the military. Even with the law remaining in force, the prime minister himself is unable to intervene once a peacekeeping commander is appointed. Abolition of the law, therefore, will have no effect on the prime minister. The prime minister said there are several loopholes in the law, such as that enforcers of the law are given the power to resort to strong, swift, and decisive action to carry out the mission. In this connection, control of those at the official level who carry out orders is very difficult.

After the prime minister finished his explanation, the speaker of the House of Representatives requested that the session vote on the government-sponsored draft bill. The bill was approved by the parliament in majority, with no vote against it. The bill passed the scrutiny of the full parliamentary committee in three readings. It will be forwarded to the Senate for consideration.

Chuan Urges Discipline Among Coalition Deputies

BK2711022992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Nov 92 p A4

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday urged his coalition partners to control their party members more strictly after Social Action Party spokesman Piyanat Watcharaphon debated against a government-sponsored bill on Wednesday.

But Chuan played down the attack by Piyanat, a government whip, against the the bill to deprive the military of the absolute power to suppress civil unrest.

The prime minister said Piyanat was just expressing his personal opinion which should not be taken as meaning there was a problem among government whips, as Social Action MPs voted for the bill.

All government MPs except Piyanat, who was not in the assembly hall for the vote, voted for the bill to amend the 1960 Defence Ministry Officials Act after the first reading.

"Each government MP has the right to express his opinion, but the bill has sailed through with no problem," Chuan said.

But the prime minister virtually admitted that Piyanat's attack against the bill affected the government's image.

"In fact, we don't want that kind of incident to happen, even though it's his right to speak. So, each party should take control of its members," Chuan said.

PM's Office Minister Thoetphong Chaiyanan of the Democrat Party, in his capacity as chief government whip yesterday also played down Piyanat's debate against the bill.

"It's no big deal. He had told government whips that he reserved his right to express his personal opinions during the debates," Thoetphong said. "His pride might be a little too much."

Thoetphong said it was normal that some government MPs sometimes disagreed with the coalition and that similar incidents occurred during previous governments as well.

Thoetphong said Piyanat's case posed no threat to the government's stability because other Social Action MPs followed the resolution of the government whips.

Phalang Tham Party MP Thinnawat Marukkhaphithak, a government whip, also played down Piyanat's case.

"We can't expect all government MPs to have the same point of view," Thinnawat said. "Don't cite this incident as indicative of rifts among government whips."

"Consideration by the government whips is the last step before an issue is forwarded for Cabinet approval. If the whips cannot agree on an issue, the government has to take it up and, at this point, its stability will be shaken if a agreement still cannot be reached," Thinnawat said.

Meanwhile, opposition Chat Phatthana Party leader Chatchai Chunhawan said Piyanat's case was a normal incident under democratic rule.

"He just expressed his opinion; I think the government parties are still united," Chatchai said.

House Panel Agrees To Curb Power of Senate

BK2711051192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Nov 92 p 7

[Text] The special House committee studying constitutional amendment proposals agreed yesterday to curb the power of the Senate and to reduce its number to 120—about one third of the Lower House membership.

Committee spokesman Phinit Charusombat told reporters the committee agreed at its meeting that the Senate power should be limited to screening and approving laws and to join the House in joint sittings to ratify bilateral agreements or to endorse the successor of the throne.

One half of the present 270 Senate members are required to leave their office through lot drawings when they reach half of their four-year term or March 22, 1993 under the present Constitution, with the rest to follow suit at the end of their term in 1995.

Mr Phinit said the committee intends to propose that the new Senate members be chosen to assume their office immediately thereafter. However, the committee has yet to decide on how the Senate should be chosen.

Mr Phinit said one group of committee members proposed that senators be chosen from the political parties' list in proportion to the number of each party's elected members in the Lower House.

However, the rest still felt that the Senate members should be chosen from various professional groups, Mr Phinit said.

Committee Established To Reform Bureaucracy

BK2711051992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has set up a committee, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Banthatthan, to study and recommend ways to reform the bureaucratic system in order to improve its efficiency.

The committee comprises the secretary-general of the Prime Minister, the Budget Bureau director, secretary-general of Civil Service Commission, secretary-general of National Economic and Social Development Board, chief-of-staff of the Armed Forces, director-general of the Auditor-General Department and several other technocrats.

Minister Vows Punishment for Unregistered Burmese

BK2611034092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Nov 92 p 6

[Text] Burmese student dissidents in Thailand should register at Mani Roi relief camp in Ratchaburi by November 30 or face punishment for illegal entry, Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday.

Gen Chawalit said student dissidents in the camp, numbering more than 4,000, will be provided educational assistance during their stay.

They will be able to maintain their status as students while enjoying international assistance at the camp, and may be allowed to study in Thai universities, he said.

Only 200 Burmese have registered at the camp despite the fact that there are 160,000 Burmese immigrants in Thailand.

It is thought that some are reluctant to enter the camp for fear of being sent back home, or because they believe they will not be allowed to organise protests against the Rangoon government once they are inside the camp.

A rumour has gained ground among Burmese students that when he was army chief and supreme commander, Gen Chawalit struck a deal with Burmese strongmang Gen Saw Maung to send all Burmese students back home.

Gen Chawalit denied this and provided an assurance that those who agree to enter the camp will not be repatriated.

He said dissident students who fail to surrender by the November 30 deadline will be arrested and punished under Thai law.

Thailand's proposals for looking after the student dissidents have the support of the British ambassador, he claimed.

Deputy Premier Denies Involvement in Stock Scam

BK2711043192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Phanitchaphak yesterday defended himself in Parliament against any involvement in the stock manipulation scandal.

The Opposition accused the deputy prime minister of having been involved in manipulating stock prices when a director of the real estate development company, Krisda Mahanakhon Co, and chairman of the securities and finance firm, Nava Finance Co.

Trading in Krisda Mahanakhon stocks has been very bullish in recent weeks.

Mr Supachai said he was not involved in trading stocks of either firm and was only in charge of policy matters.

The deputy premier said he had no authority at Nava Finance to lend money to any of its clients, which include controversial tycoon Song Wacharasirot.

Nava Finance is a leading broker providing margin loans to customers and Mr Song was no exception, he said.

New Aspiration Party [NAP] Deputy Transport Minister Tawi Kraikhup asked the Finance Minister to respond to an accusation by Muan Chon Party leader Chaloem Yubamrung that Mr Song had transferred millions of baht into an account belonging to the sister of an army colonel close to NAP leader and Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

Gen Chawalit earlier admitted he made some money investing on the stock market.

Pol Capt Chaloem asked the Finance Minister to clarify whether Mr Song had given Col Sonchai Montriwat's sister, Ms Pisani, money allegedly earned through the manipulation of stock prices.

Mr Song allegedly earned a fortune trading shares in Bangkok Bank of Commerce, the board of which is chaired by ex-premier M.R. Khukrit Pramot.

The minister did not respond to the Muan Chon leader's question.

New Items To Be Proposed Under AFTA Scheme

BK2511104192 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 25 Nov92

[Text] Thailand will be proposing 14 new groups of items to be included in the Common Effective Preferential Tariff or CEPT scheme as processed agricultural products. At the same time, proposal will be made by Thailand to pull out onion from the list of processed agicultured products after six items have been proposed to be pulled out of the fast-track tariff reduction, namely palm and soybean oil. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives disclosed that the recent AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area] committee meeting agreed to the proposal to add 64 items in 14 groups as SS Code Eight-Digit items under CEPT scheme. They include frozen meat, frozen fish, processed milk and butter, canned fruits and vegetables, tomato sauce, sugar, and canned tomato. Thailand would ask to pull out onion from the list and seek a grace period of eight years. Onions are normally not processed and Thailand has a production control plan in place. The same reservation would be sought for palm and soybean oil. They are not pulled out altogether. Exemption would be asked for raw soybean oil, refined soybean oil, pure palm oil, raw palm oil, seed extract, and fresh extract.

Trade Office To Approve Import-Export Items

BK2411015592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 92 p B1

[Text] Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon has adopted a policy of transparency by allowing the Foreign Trade Department to grant approvals for the import and export of 27 controlled items.

The move is in line with the policy of the Anan government to prevent excessive involvement by ministers and to give greater working flexibility to state agencies. The Foreign Trade Department will notify the minister of items for which it had granted approvals on a monthly basis.

Seven export items and 20 imports are subject to control. Previous Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on handed the authority to the Foreign Trade Department to decide. The 27 items are part of the overall 87 controlled items which are considered by the government to be related to national security.

Industry Minister Proposes National Car Project

BK2411021792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 92 p B1

[By Pichaya Changson]

[Text] Industry Minister Sanan Khachonprasat yesterday proposed that the government and private sector join to initiate a national car project in which Thailand will have its own make of vehicle for domestic and export sales.

Sanan said the national brand like Proton Saga of Malaysia must be low-priced so that vehicles will be affordable. He also expects to export the national make to neighbouring markets like Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The government will find ways to attract private companies to join the initiative. In his capacity as vice chairman of the Board of Investment, he said he will propose tax incentives which will render the project an advantage in terms of cost.

In the first stage, the national car will be sold only in the domestic market. Later, it will be exported to the Indochina. "Korea can do it (with Hyundai), why can't we? Unless we do it now, we'll have no chance," the former agriculture minister said.

His idea is similar to Malaysia's Proton Saga national car project which encountered losses. Using Japanese contents from Mitsubish Motors Corp, Malaysia heralded the Proton Saga as its national car, which looks Japanese.

Sanan said the government will be the core investor in the Thai scheme if it is launched. He said he is ready to consider proposals from interested automobile companies. The minister said he would prefer the national car project to further liberalization of the automobile industry by allowing the opening of more assembly plants.

Thailand currently has a total of 13 assembly plants producing passenger cars, pick-up trucks, buses and trucks. Having been protected by the government for three decades until last year's liberalization, the industry grew into a major sector of the economy employing tens of thousands of people in assembly and parts production. There are more than 150 firms producing parts for this industry at present.

The passenger car sector last year recorded a combined capacity of 76,900 units, up 4.3 per cent from the previous year, while capacity of other types of vehicles such as trucks and buses reached 261,000 units in 1991. This year saw further capacity expansion due to sharp rises in sales especially of passenger cars.

Passenger cars currently have 54 per cent local content, while pick-up trucks have more than 60 per cent. In addition, there are four motorcycle manufacturers with combined capacity of 673,000 units.

Sanan said the ministry will follow the local contents policy and ensure that the parts industry undergoes improvement programmes to increase efficiency. He said the government is worried that there will be too many assembly plants for passenger cars if the current restrictions are removed. Restrictions are enforced only in the passenger car industry whereas truck, pick-up, motorcycle, and bus industries are not restricted in terms of new entries.

Vietnam

Kerry Statement on MIA, Paper on Embargo Cited

BK2611102292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] After a recent visit to Vietnam, Senator John Kerry, chairman of the Senate Select Committee for the POW/

MIA issue and other members of his delegation held a press conference in Washington on Monday, 23 November.

Senator John Kerry said: The U.S. Government should express gratitude toward Vietnam for its efforts in the search of Americans who are listed as missing during the Vietnam War.

The American paper, the NEW YORK TIMES on Monday, 23 November, editorially said: It is time for the U.S. Administration to lift its embargo and normalize relations with Vietnam. President Bush's conditions for the normalization of relations with Vietnam, namely, Vietnam's full cooperation in the MIA issue and a political solution to the Cambodian issue, have been responded to rather quickly.

Daily Anticipates PRC Premier's Visit

BK2711070392 Hanoi VNA in English
0550 GMT 27 Nov 92

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 26—Under the title 'Sino-Vietnamese Friendship and Cooperation Develops', NHAN DAN today carries an article written by Dinh Nho Liem, vice president of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association, in anticipation of the visit scheduled for early December by Chinese Premier Li Peng. The article describes the visit as "an important political event in the relations between the two countries". At the present juncture of the situation in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, this is also an important event of the foreign activities of the countries in this year, the article adds.

It continues:

"After the official visit to the People's Republic of China in November 1991 by a high-level Vietnamese delegation led by party General Secretary Do Muoi and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet, the Sino-Vietnamese relations have turned a new leaf".

"Since then, there have been diversified activities in a number of areas such as the signing of a number of agreements, exchange of visits by the two states, parties, mass organistions and art troupes, opening of air links and increased trade, etc. These have contributed to promoting the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and China".

The paper recalls the talks occasioned by the China visit of the high-level Vietnamese delegation during which Secretary General Jiang Zemin was quoted as stressing: "The two sides need to let bygones be bygones and look towards the future in the spirit of mutual understanding, push up cooperation in all respects and develop relations in a realistic, steady and effective way. "We hope that this declaration will be materialized in concrete and realistic deeds.

Vietnam has declared its stance which is to promote on the basis of the guarantee of Vietnam's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, its cooperation with China and at the same time to patiently solve through negotiations the outstanding of newly-arising problems between the two countries. The essential and determinant factor for the long-term development of the Vietnamese-Chinese friendship and cooperation is to create mutual confidence on the basis of real equality, real respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other, mutual benefit and mutual assistance. This is a process which need the efforts of both sides. For our part, we are determined to persist in carrying out this consistent policy, the paper concludes.

National Assembly Delegation Visits China

BK2711064592 Hanoi VNA in English
0545 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 27—A delegation of the Commission for Social Affairs of the National Assembly led by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Than, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, and chairwoman of the commission, arrived in Beijing on Nov. 22 for a visit to China.

The delegation is guest of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee (DESCPHC) of the Chinese National People's Congress (CNPC).

It was received in Beijing on Nov. 24 by Wan Li, chairman of the CNPC Standing Committee. Vietnamese ambassador to China Dang Nghiem Hoanh attended the reception.

Chirman Wan Li emphasized the need of furthering bilateral relations and exchange of experiences in the field of population and family planning. He asked Mrs. Nguyen Thi Than to convey his regards to National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh and other leaders of the National Assembly.

Mrs. Than conveyed Chairman Nong Duc Manh's regards to Chairman Wan Li and other leaders of the CNPC. She acclaimed China's important achievements in its reforms and open-door policy, especially in the fields of population and family planning.

The Vietnamese delegation was feted on Nov. 23 by Chen Mahua, chairwoman of the CNPC Standing Committee.

While in Beijing the delegation held talks with the DESCPHC, had working sessions with the Chinese Ministry of Public Health and the State Family Planning Commission.

On Nov. 26 the delegation left Beijing to visit other localities in China.

Le Duc Anh Congratulates New Lao President

BK2611094392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 26 Nov 92

["Text" of 26 November message of congratulations from SRV President Le Duc Anh to Lao People's Democratic Republic, LPDR, President Nouhak Phoumsavan on Nouhak's election]

[Text] On the occasion of your comrade's election as President of the LPDR, I, on behalf of the SRV State and on my own behalf, would like to extend to you my warmest congratulations.

We are firmly convinced that led by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and by you—a staunch revolutionary fighter, a talented and experienced leader, an outstanding son of the multiethnic Lao people, and a close friend of the Vietnamese people—the Lao people will be able to successfully implement the resolution of the Fifth LPRP Congress and gain ever-greater successes in the renovation undertaking and in defending and building Laos into a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous country.

I wish you, comrade, good health and beautiful achievements in your lofty mandate.

It is my wish that the special relations of friendship and solidarity and the comprehensive cooperation between the two parties, two states, two governments, and two peoples of Vietnam and Laos will be increasingly consolidated and developed in the interest of the people in each country and of peace, stability, and development in the region and the world.

Do Muoi Congratulates New Lao Party Chief

BK2611093592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 26 Nov 92

["Text" of 26 November message of congratulations from Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, to Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, on his election]

[Text] On the occasion of your comrade's election as chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, I, on behalf of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and on my own behalf, would like to extend to you my warmest congratulations.

We are firmly convinced that led by the LPRP Central Committee and by you—a staunch revolutionary fighter, a talented and experienced leader, an outstanding son of the multiethnic Lao people, and a close friend of the Vietnamese—the Lao people will be able to successfully implement the resolution of the Fifth LPRP Congress and gain ever-greater successes in the renovation undertaking and in defending and building Laos into a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous country.

I wish you, comrade, good health and beautiful achievements in your lofty mandate.

It is my wish that the special relations of friendship and solidarity and the comprehensive cooperation between the two parties, two governments, and two peoples of Vietnam and Laos will be increasingly consolidated and developed in the interests of the people in each country and of peace, stability, and development in the region and the world.

ROK Grants Emergency Disaster Aid

BK2511150792 Hanoi VNA in English 1323 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 2—The Government of the Republic of Korea has granted U.S.$50,000 in emergency aid to people in disaster-stricken areas of Vietnam.

The presentation was made this morning in Hanoi by Mr. Pak No-su, head of the R.O.K. Liaison Office in Vietnam.

Foreign Investment in Steel Production Studied

BK2411151192 Hanoi VNA in English 1411 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 24—Work is being accelerated for the completion of feasibility studies for five foreign investment projects in steel production and iron ore mining, according to the Vietnam Steel Corporation (VSC).

VCS, the sole national contact in the field, is joining experts from South Korea, Singapore, Japan and Germany in elaborating feasibility studies and other documents for government approval in building four new steel works and opening an iron ore mine in the port city of Haiphong and the provinces of Thai Nguyen, Ha Tinh and Dong Nai, VSC officials said.

South Korean giant Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (Posco), the only foreign company operating in steel production in Vietnam at present, is giving the final touches to paper procedures for the implementation of two more projects. One is the construction of a foundry equipped with are electric furnaces and capable of producing 200,000 tonnes of steel a year.

The other is a plant to make steel pipes with a designed capacity of 30,000 tonnes a year. The two VSC-Posco joint ventures are to be located in the port city Haiphong.

The first joint venture Posco has entered into with the Southern Steel Union (SSU) is a 3.9 million dollar plant to make flat and corrugated roofings on a 50-50 basis. The plant has turned out more than 10,000 tonnes of roofing materials since its commission in HCM City's suburbs last April. Last preparations are being made to raise the plant's production capacity to 50,000 tonnes a year the coming period. At the same time, a new line making pipes is being installed at the joint venture. When commissioned in the next few months, the line is capable of producing as many as 50,000 tonnes a year.

Natsteel of Singapore is coordinating with the Thai Nguyen Steel Complex to prepare feasibility studies for a jointly funded foundry and rolling mill to be set up at Luu Xa in Thai Nguyen, a midland province north of Hanoi. When operational sometime in December next year, the joint venture can turn out 60,000 tonnes of steel a year. Another and bigger foundry and rolling mills is to be built in Bien Hoa, a major industrial complex north of HCM City. It is a joint venture between Kyoci Steel Company in Japan and VSC. Currently efforts are being made to complete feasibility studies for the mill which is capable of producing up to 200,000 tonnes of steel a year, or more than three time the output of the Natsteep-Thai Nguyen plant.

Krupp, a giant steel corporation in Germany, is in the final phase of completing feasibility studies for the mining of Thach Khe mine, in Ha Tinh Province, on the central coast. If Krupp's plans are approved by the Vietnamese Government in the second quarter next year, the giant German steel manufacturer is expected to pour up to 1 billion dollars into iron ore extraction at Thach Khe, one of the biggest deposits ever found in the country.

National Assembly Standing Committee Meets

BK2511150592 Hanoi VNA in English 1331 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 25—The National Assembly Standing Committee met here on Nov. 18-23 with Chairman Nong Duc Manh in the chair.

The committee decided to convene the second session of the Ninth National Assembly on Dec 9, 1992. The session will debate the orientations and tasks of socio-economic development for 1993. It will also discuss and adopt the amendments to the law on foreign investment in Vietnam as well as amending a number of laws including the land law.

Issues Communique on Second Session

BK2511164192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 Nov 92

["Communique of the National Assembly's Standing Committee"—date not given]

[Text] From 18-23 November, the National Assembly's Standing Committee met under the chairmanship of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh.

1. The National Assembly's Standing Committee has decided to convene the second session of the Ninth National Assembly on 9 December and approved the work agenda of the session with the following main tasks:

—Review the government's report on the implementation of the 1992 socioeconomic development program and decide on tasks and orientations for the 1993 socioeconomic developoment program.

—Review the government's report on the implementation of the 1992 state budget, decide on the 1993 budget estimates, and approve the final account of the 1991 state budget.

—Hear the government's report on law enforcement and measures to fight corruption and smuggling.

—Review the government's report on the state's foreign affairs activities in 1992.

—Review reports of the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court and chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control on the activities of the court and control sectors in 1992.

—Approve the bill on supplementing and amending the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam, the bill on amendments to a number of stipulations of the Criminal Code, and the bill on amendments to a number of stipulations to the Law on Criminal Procedures.

—Approve the 1993 law formulation program of the National Assembly and the rules and procedures of National Assembly sessions.

—Contribute ideas to the draft bill on supplementing and amending a number of stipulations of the Law on Land, and examine and decide on other important issues.

2. The National Assembly's Standing Committee examined preparations for the second session of the Ninth National Assembly, especially the draft reports and programs to be presented to the National Assembly.

The National Assembly's Standing Committee heard the Government report on the implementation of the 1992 socioeconomic tasks, the 1993 socioeconomic tasks and orientations, the implementation of the 1992 state budget, and the 1993 state budget estimates. It also heard the Government's report on lines and measures aimed at implementing the Ninth National Assembly First Session's resolution on opposing corruption and smuggling, and results on law enforcement in 1992. The National Assembly's Standing Committee has contributed ideas to these issues so that the government and responsible agencies can continue to perfect their draft reports and programs for submission to the National Assembly.

3. After hearing the Government's representative report on the draft bill on supplementing and amending a number of stipulations of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam, representatives of the Judiciary and Economic and Budget Committees of the National Assembly contributed their ideas to the draft bill. The National Assembly's Standing Committee also contributed its ideas to perfecting the draft bill for submission to the second session of the Ninth National Assembly.

4. At the recommendation of the government, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Organ of Control, and in order to promptly meet requirements of the current struggle against corruption and smuggling, the National Assembly's Standing Committee decided to include in the work agenda of the second session of the Ninth National Assembly discussions on amendments to stipulations of the Criminal Code and the Law on Criminal Procedures.

5. The National Assembly's Standing Committee heard the government's representative report on the draft bill on amendments to a number of stipulations of the Law on Land which has been revised on the basis of ideas contributed by National Assembly deputies at the recent First Session of the Ninth National Assembly, as well as based on the ideas of the National Assembly Judiciary Committee and Economic and Budget Committee concerning this draft bill. The Law on Land is an important law concerning the rights and interests of the state and all citizens. Amendments to the current Law on Land are an

essential requirement aimed at institutionalizing new stipulations of the SRV Constitution to meet the people's aspirations concerning land isues, thereby contributing to stabilizing the socioeconomic situation and developing the multisectoral economy in accordance with socialist orientations.

The National Assembly's Standing Committee charged the Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly, the Law Drafting Committee of the Government, and the Economic and Budget Committee of the National Assembly with the task of coordinating with the Vietnam Peasants Association to amend this draft bill for submission to the Ninth National Assembly at its second session.

6. The National Assembly's Standing Committee has contributed ideas concerning the draft amendment to the rules and procedures of National Assembly sessions for submission to the second session of the Ninth National Assembly for approval. The draft amendment to the rules and procedures of National Assembly sessions has been formulated on the basis of new stipulations of the SRV Constitution, the Law on the Organization of the National Assembly, and experiences drawn from activities of the Eighth National Assembly in order to enhance the quality and results of National Assembly sessions to meet the new requirements.

7. At the recommendation of the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, the National Assembly's Standing Committee approved the establishment of the Control Committee of the Organ of Control.

Premier Issues Decision on Corruption, Smuggling

Part One

BK2411130192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Nov 92

["Part one" of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's 21 November decision on urgent measures to prevent and eliminate corruption and smuggling]

[Text] **I. Situation and Causes**

Since the promulgation of Decision No. 240 dated 16 June 1990 by the Council of Ministers—now the government—on anticorruption, all sectors and echelons have adopted measures to implement this decision. The results, however, remain low. Corruption continues to develop at an alarming rate and in sophisticated forms among state business establishments in all sectors and at all echelons.

Realities indicate that corruption is often linked with smuggling, which, in turn, relies on corruption and that in many cases, officials in charge condoned corruption and smuggling because they wanted to protect the interests of their sectors or localities. Therefore, it is necessary to closely link the anticorruption campaign with the antismuggling drive.

Noteworthy is the fact that at present, corruption and smuggling have developed into a well-organized network using even state-owned means to misappropriate state property, capital, and other revenue sources. The following are the main causes of the above-mentioned situation:

1. Leading officials from the upper down to lower echelons have not yet heightened their determination to fight against negativism, corruption, and smuggling. Furthermore, they have failed to fully realize the importance of this struggle or to take very practical, uniform measures to pursue set objectives till the end. No serious administrative measures or timely and strict legal actions have been taken against violations to serve the purpose of educating the public and deterring violations. Some cases have been dragged on because of a lack of resolute measures to settle them once for all. No thorough steps have been taken to enforce court verdicts.

2. Generally speaking, so far, there has been a failure to clearly define or draw a line between collective responsibility and individual responsibility toward the struggle against corruption and smuggling. No adequate steps have been taken to clearly define the responsibilities of heads of state agencies and unit chiefs for the management and protection of public property, as well as for the application of measures against cadres and employees under their charge who have become degenerated, deviant or have engaged in illegal business activities.

3. Corruption and smuggling develop because there are drawbacks in the socioeconomic management mechanisms and policies, as well as because of loopholes of the legal system currently in effect. So long as there are no uniform mechanisms and policies or tight legal measures to match the renovative line, corruption and smuggling still have conditions for development. Likewise, bad elements can take advantage of more opportunities to serve their personal interests.

4. No efforts have been made to closely link cadre-related work with the struggle to get rid of corruption and smuggling. Generally speaking, no severe disciplinary measures have been taken against corrupt cadres. There have been incidents in which those responsible agencies avoided taking action, failed to reach decisions, or prolonged investigation work, especially with regard to cases involving leading cadres.

5. Law protection agencies are not strong enough. Some of them even show manifestations of negativism. Particularly, there is a lack of close coordination. There have been cases in which one agency tried to impede the activities of another, thus prolonging the prosecution of cases or preventing the making of clearcut decisions.

II. Policies and Measures

At present, it is everyone's duty to help contain and push back and then to eliminate corruption and smuggling, as well as to build a genuinely pure and effective state management mechanism. This is a decisive factor for the struggle to build a firm and powerful administration, restore the people's trust, develop the role of positive elements, protect the contingent of staunch hardcore cadres, and continue to lead the country forward.

However, corruption and smuggling are a very complicated issue that requires undaunted and consistent efforts to eliminate it. In 1993, efforts must be made to take significant steps to discover, investigate, persecute, and try cases of embezzlement, corruption, smuggling, and other law violations through the abuse of power. Special attention must be paid to agencies with easy access to corruption such as those responsible for providing loans to capital construction projects, approving plans for construction sites, granting export-import licenses, controlling the management of financial and tax collection work, transferring of house ownership, and allocation of land and so forth. Decisive measures must be taken to deal with serious cases involving officials with authority while efforts must be made to carefully analyze causes and loopholes leading to corruption so as to formulate appropriate measures and steps to eliminate it at the root cause.

In the present situation, the formulation of measures to eliminate corruption and smuggling must be focused on the following points:

1. The struggle against corruption and smuggling will be carried out on an extensive scale. As a result, efforts must be made to distinguish good people from the bad so as to implement the motto: Seriously Dealing With Real Smugglers and Adopting Leniency Toward Those Who Have Repented. For cases which happened before the issuance of this decision, measures must be taken to decisively deal with a number of serious cases while leniency will be given to those who committed crimes but reported their cases to the authorities with the intention to repay losses caused to the state property. Leniency will be granted in different degrees depending on the seriousness of each case and the willingness of violators to repent. The time limit for reporting their cases to the authorities is three months from the day of the promulgation of this decision. After this period, drastic measures will be taken against those who failed to report their cases. Those who still try to violate laws and regulations will be seriously dealt with in accordance with the law.

2. The struggle against corruption and smuggling must be carried out very urgently and decisively while striving to avoid creating a tense atmosphere. Efforts must be made to encourage people to engage only in legal activities, create healthy conditions for business at home, and promote investment from abroad, thereby contributing to accelerating the implementation of socioeconomic tasks and preventing bad elements from taking any advantages.

3. The efforts to eliminate corruption, smuggling, and other social vices also help to purify the state machinery, improve organization, and strengthen the quality of personnel at various sectors and echelons of state-run business establishments,

4. The struggle calls for efforts to urgently build the administrative legal system, continue to perfect the law on economic management and the criminal code and so forth, and establish order and discipline in accordance with the law in the economic, social, security, national defense, and foreign affairs domains.

5. Given the abovementioned requirements, this struggle must be carried out in a way that can strengthen the people's confidence in the party leadership and the state management. Efforts must be made to mobilize the people to positively participate in monitoring, discovering, and opposing corruption and smuggling.

Last Part

BK2511133592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Nov 92

["Last part" of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's 21 November decision on urgent measures to prevent and eliminate corruption and smuggling]

[Text] Some essential measures aimed at preventing and eliminating corruption and smuggling:

1. Reexamine, revise, amend, and issue measures aimed at perfecting the system of structural policies, especially the relevant system of law, if we are to eliminate the bad practice of corruption and smuggling.

a. As for those structural policies and laws on economic management, we should re-examine them to revise and amend those things which are no longer suitable or which are prone to loopholes that have become exploited. Special attention should be paid to those laws and that system that provide protection and security for state property.

It is necessary to urgently carry out a program to study, compile, and promulgate a trade law; to revise and amend the law on land, the law on foreign investment, the administrative law, civil servant code, working regulations, and so forth.

b. Together with other relevant sectors, the Ministry of Justice is responsible for promptly finalizing the revision of and amendments to various clauses of the criminal code and the law on criminal procedures so as to present them to the Ninth National Assembly for approval at its second session.

Through revision efforts, we should amend various clauses of the law on criminal procedures in connection with measures against corruption and smuggling. For instance, we should amend names of crime on corruption and smuggling, fixing harsher punitive measures, and ensuring prompt, accurate, and timely countermeasures.

c. Consider promulgating laws or orders forcing questionable persons, including those in high positions, to declare their assets.

d. Responsible ministries and state commissions should re-examine inconvenient regulations and procedures in various administrative management, especially in the granting of permission or other kinds of documents, with a view to eliminating them.

2. Clearly define the responsibilities of the heads of various state administrative organs and of the administration at various levels. In each ministry or sector, the minister or the head of the sector should be responsible for checking their responsible organs to see if there is any indications of corruption or smuggling. If there is, which components are

involved and who is the culprit? First, we should take stern administrative disciplinary action against those involved. In the event there are cases that warrant prosecution, we should promptly transfer these cases to law enforcement organs to take further action.

Instead of making a public declaration about a corruption or smuggling case, we should encourage those cadres who commit wrongdoings to criticize themselves voluntarily and to return to the state property they have misappropriated in exchange for a pardon.

Ministers and the heads of various sectors should adopt uniform measures to avert corruption and smuggling within their ministries or sectors. At various administrative echelons, such as those provinces and cities under the central authority, those districts, precincts, towns, and cities belonging to a province, and those villages, wards, and townships, the chairmen of the people's committees concerned will be responsible for the implementation of these measures. At those departments, services, institutes, schools, general corporations, corporations, and enterprises, the heads of these organs or units should also accept the main responsibility for any cases of corruption or smuggling occurring within their organs or units. If they failed to fully perform their anticorruption and antismuggling duty, the leaders of those administrative echelons, organs, or establishments mentioned above should face administrative disciplinary action. If found condoning the culprits, resisting or and creating difficulties to law enforcement organs on duty, they will face disciplinary action or criminal prosecution. Their direct superiors should also be held responsible for the mistakes and law violations committed by their subordinate cadres.

3. Strengthen and revamp law enforcement organs, increase investigation and prosecution activities.

a. It is necessary to pefect law enforcement organs. Special attention should be paid to purging the internal ranks, removing from these organs those who are unqualified or incompetent while ensuring an adequate supply of competent, high-quality cadres, particularly for those elements directly responsible for fighting corruption and smuggling.

We should increase material bases and ensure adequate material supply and necessary working and transportation means.

We should re-examine various wage, bonus, allowance, and reward systems and should overcome any indications of capitalizing on administrative penalties in order to get rewards and of working only for rewards.

We should provide more funds, especially to those elements essential for investigating and handling legal cases with a high degree of severity.

We should consider a special system of allowances for the cadres of those law enforcement sectors directly responsible for handling complicated smuggling or corrupt cases.

Law enforcement organs should not deal in those businesses having to do with their functions.

We should set up court sessions in areas where proper respect and solemnity are guaranteed. We should ensure that defendents and those attending a court session have a sense of respect for the law. We should consider the uniforms to be worn by judges during court sessions.

Efforts must be made to build a mechanism to coordinate tasks against corruption and smuggling between law enforcement agencies, especially those belonging to the inspection, interior, control, and court sectors. Efforts must also be made to consolidate and strengthen the inspection work of various sectors and echelons, enhance the capability of inspection cadres; strive to promptly discover cases of corruption, smuggling, and waste to take administrative action against them. For those serious cases, measures must be taken to transfer them to the court for trial. Resolute steps must be taken to oppose such negative phenomena as shunning responsibility, protectionism, and harboring law violators, considering these as acts supportive of smugglers and corruptors. Those who extend protection to embezzlers must be seriously dealt with regardless of their ranks and positions.

b. It is necessary to strengthen investigation, prosecution, and trial against cases of corruption and smuggling. Procedures in the prosecution of cases must be speeded up. Efforts should be made to avoid compiling time-consuming dossiers of cases for which the court only wants to know the nature of the crimes in order to compare and hand down sentences on the violators in accordance with their seriousness. Penalties may rage from paying compensation or fines to partial or total confiscation of the assets involved. Suspended execution of sentence should not be granted to serious and obstinate cases. In exceptionally serious cases with ample evidence, the first instance must be considered as the final court session. It is imperative to try a number of serious cases, including appealed cases, in accordance with special regulations designed in conformity with the law to help promote and accelerate the struggle to eliminate corruption and smuggling. The validity and results of the court verdicts rest with their implementation. As a result, efforts must be made to seriously implement court verdicts, arrest, and detain those found guilty.

According to the new regulations, the government is responsible for prosecution of corruption and smuggling cases while the Ministry of Justice and sectors concerned are responsible for investigating and compiling documents related to these cases for submission to the Prime Minister.

III. Guidance and Implementation

Upon receiving this decision, various sectors and echelons must immediately formulate concrete measures to oppose and to eliminate corruption and smuggling in their agencies and organizations. Attention must be paid to monitoring agencies with easy access or which have already been involved with corruption, business units, and state management organizations, signs of corruption being evident. We must treat these concrete measures as an important part and parcel of the program of action of administrative agencies at various echelons in order to implement the government's program of action which was recently reported to the first session of the Ninth National Assembly. Ministers and chiefs of agencies at ministerial level or government organizations hold direct responsibility in formulating anticorruption and smuggling program in the framwork of their authority and must file reports on results of their tasks to the Prime Minister. Chairmen of people's committees at various levels must file reports to the people's councils at the corresponding levels. People's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government must file reports to the government.

Various law enforcement agencies must accelerate their studies to perfect the current legal system and to strengthen coordination with the justice sector to reach a unified concept in court trial so as to create a firm base for the struggle against corruption and smuggling.

The government, the Supreme People's Organ of Control, and the Supreme People's Court must provide uniform guidance and close supervision to various inspection, control, and investigation agencies on prosecuting and trying cases and on implementing the court's verdicts.

The government, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and other mass organizations must strengthen coordination in the struggle against corruption and smuggling, promptly commend localities with good deeds, and protect and develop the role of positive elements.

Various mass media channels must use their facilities to promote the struggle against corruption and smuggling, commend successful establishments that operate their business in accordance with the law.

The struggle against corruption and smuggling is a complicated and protracted struggle. However, we must consider it an important task that requires an integrated guidance and a series of measures from the education, economic, administrative, and law sectors so as to attain concrete results, thereby contributing to effectively implementing the socioeconomic tasks.

[Signed] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

Doan Khue Meets With Teachers on Teachers' Day

BK2411092992 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] On the occasion of Vietnam Teachers' Day, 20 November, General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau, deputy secretary of the party Central Committee Military Commission, and minister of national defense, met and had cordial talks with representatives of teachers from all institutes and schools in the Army.

General Doan Khue commended the contingent of teachers in the Army for having overcome difficulties and exerted efforts in their struggle to gradually improve teaching and learning quality and urged them to actively engage in study and undergo training to expand their knowledge in all aspects—especially political aptitude, Marxism-Leninism, and Ho Chi Minh ideology—and develop their professional skills. He also pointed out the need for them to successfully change the objectives and contents of training programs among all institutes and schools in the Army, thereby contributing to tasks of building up the Army and consolidating national defense.

On this occasion, the standing body of the party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense also held a get-together and awarded the state's Outstanding Teacher title to 30 teachers in the Army. On behalf of the standing body of party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense, Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen warmly congratulated the awardees.

State Bank Grants Business Loans

BK2411064992 Hanoi VNA in English 0630 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 24—According to the Vietnam State Bank, in the first nine months of this year, it made loans totaling 24,727 billion dong (2,470 million US dollars [USD]) to private and state-owned businesses.

In the same period, the bank collected debts totalling 23,800 billion dong (2,300 million dollars), and 11,600 billion dong (1,100 million US dollars) of debts remain to be collected.

Also according to the bank, this balance sheet correspondent [as received] with the growth of economy and the inflation rate in the first 9 months of 1992 which stood at 6-8 percent and 13.9 percent respectively.

In the same period, the commercial banks resorted to a variety of measures to attract capital, thanks to this, in spite of the reduction of interest rate of savings, the sources of capital raised increased by 1,786 billion dong (170 million US dollars) over the first months of the year which is instrumental to rolling back inflation.

The commercial banks also readjusted the structures of credit to fit in with the multi-sector economy.

In nine months, the banks made loans of more than 1,120 billion dong (112 million US dollars) to 612,000 farmer house-holds and 404 billion dong (40 million USD) to 3,160 non-governmental businesses in urban areas. The bank also loaned 1,000 billion dong to the food companies for the purchase of food from farmers and increased by 50 percent the loans to consumer goods and goods for export enterprises compared with the same nine-month period of 1991.

Australia

Melbourne Complains About UK Compensation Delay

BK2611091292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Australia has complained to Britain about about its slowness in honoring requests for compensation relating to a former British nuclear test site. Australia's Primary Industries Minister Simon Crean says difficulties in getting British officials to understand Aborigines' attachment to the land are delaying the compensation due to the test site of Maralinga in South Australia. Mike Donaldson reports that Mr. Crean has called in the British High Commissioner to complain about the delay.

[Begin recording] [Donaldson] Mr. Crean handed High Commisioner Sir Brian Barder a letter expressing concern that it has been 12 months since the issue was raised with the United Kingdom. Mr. Crean says the physical rehabilitation of the land is a relatively easy issue but it has been difficult to convey to the British of the impact on the traditional Aboriginal owners if effective areas are fenced off.

[Crean] As to the extent to which you gave for that option, then it raises the other issues of lack of access to their lands, their tribal lands, and because of the affinity with the land that's an important dimension of the compensation issue. [end recording]

Tonga

Bishop: Pro-Monarchy Party Idea 'Unenlightened'

BK2611000692 Hong Kong AFP in English 2052 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Nuku'alofa, Nov 26 (AFP)—A Catholic bishop has slammed a government proposal for the church to back the creation of a pro-monarchy Christian grouping as Tonga's first political party, calling it an unenlightened act.

The proposal for creating a Christian Democratic Party suggests the government believes church people are "fools who blindly obey their leaders," Bishop Pateliso Finau said in an editorial in the church's newspaper TAUMU'A LELEI, published here this week.

Prime Minister Baron Vaea called church leaders and cabinet ministers to a meeting in October to discuss formation of the party ahead of February's general elections.

Finau accused government advisers of being "happy to misuse the church for their own ends."

"They must have a very low evaluation of church leaders," Finau said, adding the government did not understand the thinking of most Tongans.

"They are oblivious of the damage they are doing to the image of our king and the good name of Tonga," he said.

The proposal came as commoner MPs [members of parliament], who form a minority in the noble-dominated Legislative Assembly, are campaigning for more democracy [word indistinct] for King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV to relinquish some of his near absolute powers.

Foreign Newsman Questioned Over Convention Report

BK2611005992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0030 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Nuku'alofa, Nov 26 (AFP)—A correspondent covering a democracy convention here was questioned by police over the source of one of his reports, conference organisers said in a statement Thursday.

Pro-Democracy Movement spokesman Seluini 'Akau'ola said in a statement that police had been in the audience during the first two days of the conference, taking names and notes of what was being said.

He said that Police Chief Superintendent Sinilau Kolokihakaufisi late Wednesday "made an unscheduled visit to the hotel room of Simon Louisson, the REUTERS correspondent covering the convention.

"It is understood that Mr. Louisson was questioned about his report that was filed with Radio Australia, which was broadcast by the local radio station A3Z on Wednesday morning."

The report quoted a conference participant as saying there could be violence in the islands within two or three years unless there was change.

'Akau'ola said in his statement that there now seemed "a real possibility" that some of the speakers at the convention could be charged with sedition.

"But that is a risk that all pilgrims take in their quest for justice and the truth," he said.

He said a radio blackout by A3Z meant that the speeches and discussions had so far been restricted to the 600-odd conference participants, adding that he had received phone calls from the outer islands asking why there was no local coverage.

"One particular caller from Vava'u after listening to my explanation said that he tunes to Radio Australia for news about the convention anyway," 'Akau'ola said.

Police Question Educator Holding U.S. Passport

BK2611062592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0608 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Nuku'alofa, Nov 26 (AFP)—Police briefly detained a leading educator taking part in a pro-democracy conference here Thursday.

Letia Niumetolu, Tongan-born but now living in Utah, the United States, said that she had been grilled on her alleged possession of two passports, illegal in Tonga.

Niumetolu had flown here with Utah state representative Filia Uipi, also of Tongan origin, who on Monday was forcibly put back on the plane that brought them from Honolulu to attend the conference.

Niumetolu said a plainclothes policeman came into the Roman Catholic Basilica where the conference is being held and told her a relative wanted to see her.

She said she was instead taken down to the main police station and questioned on whether she had a U.S. passport as well as a Tongan one. She said she denied it.

She said she would answer no questions unless a lawyer was present, but one of the police officers told her she was breaking Tongan law by not answering.

Niumetolu said she was extremely distressed, ran out of the police station and headed for the Prime Minister's Department where her brother worked. She was chased by policemen but she got to her brother first who called a lawyer.

She was returned to the police station and asked more questions about her passport, before being released and allowed to return to the conference.

Plain-clothes police Wednesday had attended at a press conference at which Niumetolu gave her account of the removal of Uipi from the country. She said she had used an airport baggage trolley in an unsuccessful attempt to delay his deportation till the aircraft departed.

During the press conference she gave the impression that she had become a U.S. citizen but travelled here on a Tongan passport. [passage omitted]

Democracy Convention Ends; No Consensus Achieved

BK2711061092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0552 GMT 27 Nov 92

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Nuku'alofa, Nov 27 (AFP)—A week of heated talks about the tyranny of kings and the virtues of democracy ended here Friday with Tongans happy that King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV is still on the throne, but uncertain what he should do from it.

The four-day conference organised by the newly formed Pro-Democracy Movement debated alternatives to the king's near absolute rule over the tiny South Pacific archipelago of 100,000 people.

By the end of the conference, however, no clear consensus was achieved and more than a few participants were anxious to give the 74-year-old monarch a chance to clean up the inefficiencies and corruption among his 30 nobles and government.

"The king is all right," said one conference participant. "It's his government that is so bad."

However, as the king appoints his 12-member cabinet for life, some participants found it difficult to separate him from the government itself.

But it is stability that is the all-consuming virtue here and many see change as an uncomfortable prospect.

Conservative Tongans fear democracy would destroy the peace they have known since their first king, Tupou I, founded the constitution in 1875.

The conference opened Tuesday on a strident tone with Australian resident church minister Siupeli Taliai claiming the constitution was "designed to preserve old Tongan traditional inequality, entrenched power and position," adding that it was "ethnically criminal and theologically barbaric."

By contrast, Tongan author Epeli Hau'ofa said Friday that commoners had already taken most of the power from the king and nobles, adding that they would soon work out "a new national consensus."

Hau'ofa said that "Tongans have maintained a sense of profound respect and an abiding affection" for the monarchy.

According to minority commoner MP Viliami Fukofuka, Crown Prince Tupouto'a has told him privately that he will be more amenable to change when he takes the throne.

But Professor Futa Helu of the Atenisi Institute warned that unless change is made within three years "the situation could get uncontrollable and probably destructive."

At the conference, participants were willing, if not pleading, for the king to make his views on political reform know. Said one woman: "Has anybody told the king about democracy, has anybody really asked him?"

Sione Na'a Fiefia, a director at the University of the South Pacific Tonga, wanted a referendum on the issue, but only after an independent education program.

Fiefia, however, conceded that "if we asked people now most would favour the status quo."

It is difficult to know what Tonga's leaders think since the government boycotted the conference after initially saying it would participate.

Outspoken Police Minister 'Akau'ola said in a statement Friday that responding to questions raised at the meeting "is an exercise in futility which I do not wish to contemplate."

'Akau'ola said once the meeting's leaders make submissions to the government, it will be up to Prime Minister Baron Vaea to decide on the next step.

"I am pleased to announce that as of the date of this statement the Kingdom of Tonga remains peaceful and serene with the general public going about their normal daily affairs," he said.

There is a real fondness for the ageing king, but the hard reality of a frail economy, a tattered infrastructure and a lack of jobs may overcome emotions.

Tonga is now totally dependent for its income on selling squash to Japan with immigrants abroad—60,000 Tongans are currently living overseas—as the country's only safety valve.

If the squash harvest fails, or public services and facilities get much worse, or New Zealand limits immigration further, the king could find the pressure for change overwhelming.

But in the meantime the Royal Standard still flutters over King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV's tiny palace on the Tongan coast.